



C. F. Davis

Portrait of C. F. Davis, Esq., by J. H. P. Davis, Esq., 1840.

Engraved by J. H. P. Davis, Esq., 1840.

HISTORY
OF THE
AMERICAN
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION,

FROM ITS
ORGANIZATION UP TO JANUARY, 1855.

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ILLINOIS STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY, ETC. ETC. ETC.

TO WHICH IS APPENDED

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES, WITH PORTRAITS OF THE PRESIDENTS
OF THE ASSOCIATION, AND OF THE AUTHOR.

EDITED BY
S. W. BUTLER, M. D.

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EDITOR'S PREFACE.

THIS work had its origin in a desire to interest the mass of the profession in one of the most important social organizations that exist in our land. On the part of the author, it has been a labor of love, having been undertaken at the earnest request of the undersigned, solely with the desire of aiding the cause of medical progress.

The profession owes Dr. Davis a debt of gratitude for his disinterested and arduous labors in compiling this important history, and it is to be hoped that he will be amply repaid, in the continued prosperity and success of a movement, of which he is both the originator and historiographer.

Most of the illustrations of the work were engraved expressly for the undersigned, at the establishment of John M. Butler, of Philadelphia. The biographical sketches, with the exception of that of the late Dr. Chapman, were prepared by intimate friends of the individuals of whom they are the subject.

The whole work was brought out under the editorial supervision of the undersigned, who would unite with the author in expressing the hope that it may serve some useful purpose in the profession.

S. W. BUTLER.

BURLINGTON, N. J., *May 1*, 1855.

AUTHOR'S PREFACE.

NEARLY two years since, the author of the following pages was solicited by the editor and publisher of the NEW JERSEY MEDICAL REPORTER, to contribute a series of articles for his periodical, on the History of the American Medical Association. The request was acceded to on condition that the articles should appear anonymously. The reason assigned for this condition was, that I had so frequently furnished communications in relation to the Association and its objects, that I might be charged with making it too much a "*hobby*." I had then no idea that the articles would appear in any other form than on the pages of the journal for which they were written. The publisher of that journal having determined, however, to republish them in book form, I had no other alternative than to let the book appear as a literary *orphan*, or place my name on the title page. I hope this explanation will afford a sufficient apology for the freedom with which my own name is used throughout the work. The whole of it has been written in the midst of the most arduous and pressing professional duties, and without the possibility of commanding time for a careful revision. But if the work serves any useful purpose in the profession, I shall be satisfied.

N. S. DAVIS.

CHICAGO, Ill., 1855.

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HISTORY

OF THE

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

1846.

PRIMARY ACTION IN THE NEW YORK STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY—
PRELIMINARY CONVENTION IN NEW YORK.

It has been said by some one, that *associated action* constitutes the main-spring—the controlling *motive* power—of modern society. And whoever surveys, with the eye of intelligence, the present aspect and tendencies of civilization, will readily acknowledge the truth of the remark.

It is by the association of capital, that those great enterprises for facilitating commerce and intercourse among States and nations, are being prosecuted with an energy and success, which threaten to break through the strongest barriers of nature, and make neighbors of nations on the opposite sides of our globe. It is by the association of mind with mind, in the Church, the Conference, the Presbytery, the Diocese, and the General Convocations, that the moral force of Christendom is stirred up, concentrated, and brought to act with mighty power in disseminating the sublime truths of a glorious religion. So, too, by the association of mind with mind, in the rapidly recurring anniversary meetings of the learned, not only is thought made to elicit

thought, and the generous ambition of one made to kindle a kindred impulse in another, but the rich and varied fruits of many intellects are brought to a common storehouse, and made the common property of all. For intellectual treasures, unlike those of a material nature, neither become monopolized by concentration, lost by use, nor diminished by diffusion, or communication to others. If it is true, that *associated* action constitutes so prominent an element in the progressive tendencies of modern society as a whole, it is no less so in reference to the several classes of which the whole is composed. And of these individual classes, none hold a more important or influential relation to all the rest, than that which is made up of the active practitioners of the healing art. Forced, by the very nature of their calling, to become pre-eminently cultivators of the whole field of natural science and philosophy, while they have the freest possible access to the homes and hearts of all classes, they are daily exerting an influence over the physical and intellectual elements of society, second to no class in Christendom. Hence, whatever is calculated materially to influence the character of the medical profession, is worthy of one page, at least, in the historical records of our race. Who, that has studied carefully the history of the past, but has found mention of many institutions and movements, which have left an impression on man's social and intellectual progress, and yet their founders, and the motives by which they were actuated, have both alike been lost in the darkness of the past? And yet, a knowledge of these is not only necessary to a full comprehension of historical truth, but it presents in itself the most interesting element of history.

Of all the voluntary social organizations in our country, none are at this time in a position to exert a wider, or more permanent influence over the temporal interests of our country, than the *American Medical Association*. This assertion may startle the mind of the professional reader, and call forth a smile of incre-

dulity, nay of contempt, from the non-professional; but let both patiently follow me to the end, and then judge. I am aware that the details, upon which I am about to enter, may appear to some unimportant, to others tedious, and, to all of the present generation, wanting in novelty and interest; but they will appear far otherwise to those who shall come after us, and live when time shall have thrown his dimming veil over all the doings of our day. The American Medical Association completed its organization, and commenced its actual existence in the city of Philadelphia, during the first week in May, 1847. But a correct knowledge of its origin, and a just appreciation of the motives of those to whom the profession is indebted for its existence, require a knowledge of the doings of certain individuals and societies during several years previous to the date just mentioned. If the reader will turn to the *Statistics of Medical Colleges*, compiled by Dr. T. R. Beck, of Albany, and published in the *Transactions of the New York State Medical Society*; or to the little volume entitled, *History of Medical Education, &c.*, by Dr. N. S. Davis, he will learn that, during the fifteen years intervening between 1830 and 1845, the number of medical colleges in the United States more than doubled, leading to a most active rivalry, and a competition unrestrained by any mutual intercourse with each other, or social connection with the profession at large. Such institutions, having full power to confer degrees, which were very generally recognized as sufficient to entitle the holder to membership in the profession, would be strongly tempted, under the circumstances mentioned, to add, to the more important and legitimate inducements, short courses of instruction, and easy terms of graduation. Hence, *sixteen weeks* was very generally adopted as the length of the college term, and in some of the schools it was reduced to *thirteen*. The marked inadequacy of so short a term, and the evils resulting from a want of concert among the colleges, early attracted attention in New-England; and led to some

unsuccessful attempts to remedy both. In 1835, the Faculty of the Medical College of Georgia, formally proposed the holding of a convention of delegates from all the medical colleges of the Union, and advocated the same through the columns of the *Southern Medical and Surgical Journal*.

The proposition seemed to meet the approbation of those connected with many of the colleges, but failed of being carried into effect through the indifference of some of the older, and more influential schools in the Atlantic cities. The first movement, of which we have any record, which contemplated a convention of delegates, not only from all the medical colleges, but also from the regularly organized medical societies throughout the whole country, was made in the Medical Society of the State of New York, at its annual session in February, 1839. During the same session, the subject of medical education had been a prominent topic of discussion, and a resolution, declaring that the business of *teaching* should be separated as far as possible from the privilege of granting diplomas, had been adopted by a large majority. It was in view of this discussion that Dr. John McCall, of Utica, offered the following preamble and resolution, viz:—

“WHEREAS, a National Medical Convention would advance, in the apprehension of this Society, the cause of the medical profession throughout our land, in thus affording an interchange of views and sentiments on the most interesting of all subjects—that involving men’s health, and the means of securing, or recovering the same: therefore,

Resolved, That, in our opinion, such convention is deemed advisable and important; and we would hence recommend that it be held in the year 1840, on the first Tuesday in May of that year, in the city of Philadelphia—and that it consist of three delegates from each State Medical Society, and one from each regularly constituted medical school in the United States, and that the president and secretary of this Society be, and they are hereby instructed and required to transmit, as soon as may be, a

circular to that effect to each State Medical Society and the medical schools in said United States."

This proposition was adopted, and all the necessary steps taken by the Society of the State of New York, for carrying it into effect. But neither the societies, nor the schools of other States, not even those of Philadelphia, where the proposed convention was to be held, responded to the invitation, and consequently no meeting took place.

The subject of medical education, however, continued to be a prominent topic of discussion in many of the medical societies throughout the Union; and especially the evils supposed to result from the union of the power to *teach*, and to confer degrees, or licenses to practise, in the same hands. And at the annual meeting of the New York State Society, in 1844, attention was again strongly directed to the whole subject of medical education, and the necessity of a higher standard of qualifications, both preliminary and medical, by two series of resolutions. The one was offered by Dr. Alexander Thompson, of Cayuga Co., and the other by Dr. N. S. Davis, then a new delegate from Broome Co., N. Y.

These resolutions declared a *four* months college term too short for an adequate course of lectures on all the branches of medical science, and the standard of education, both preliminary and medical, required by the schools previous to the granting of their diplomas, altogether too low; while the union of the teaching and licensing power in the college faculties, was represented as impolitic, and constantly liable to abuse. These resolutions elicited some discussion, and were referred to the standing Corresponding Committee, of which Dr. Davis was made chairman. Through his agency, the subjects embraced in the resolution were urged upon the attention of most of the county societies in that State, and in many of them elicited action acknowledging their importance, and sanctioning the principles they embraced.

This gave the subject a more general interest, and at the next annual meeting of the State Society, held in February, 1845, two reports were presented by the Corresponding Committee; one from the chairman, embodying the action of the county societies, and recommending the principles involved in the original resolutions; the other, from Dr. M. H. Cash, of Orange County, taking a different view of the subject. These reports led to a protracted discussion of the whole subject of medical education; more especially in reference to the standard of attainments that should be required, before admission into the ranks of the profession. On the one hand it was claimed that the standard of attainments, both preliminary and medical, exacted by the several medical colleges, was too low, or too limited, to be consistent with either the honor of the profession, or the well-being of the community; and further, that the union of the power to teach and grant diplomas in the several college faculties, co-operated with the active rivalry among the schools to depress the standard still lower. On the other hand, while some of these allegations were promptly admitted to be true, it was claimed that the standard of qualifications exacted by the colleges of New York State was as high as that required by the colleges in any of the surrounding States; and consequently, the adoption of measures calculated to compel the schools of one State to adopt a higher standard, would have no other effect than to induce the students to abandon such schools for those of other States, where less extensive attainments were required. The latter view was more especially urged by the friends of such colleges as were represented in the Society; while the advocates of a more liberal professional education, claimed that such position precluded all progress. For the institutions of each State would claim that *their* standard of qualifications, required before conferring the degree of M. D., was as high as that exacted by the schools of

other States, and consequently no one would venture to advance a step beyond its rivals.

It was at the close of this debate, when the whole subject was about to be postponed until the next annual meeting of the Society, that Dr. Alden March, of Albany, privately suggested to Dr. Davis, who had taken an active part in the discussion, that the objection might be obviated by calling a convention of delegates from all the colleges, and thereby inducing the institutions of the several States to act in concert. The last named gentleman, not knowing that any previous attempts to assemble a National Medical Convention had been made, immediately rose, and submitted the following preamble and resolutions, viz:—

“WHEREAS, it is believed that a National Convention would be conducive to the elevation of the standard of medical education in the United States; and whereas, there is no mode of accomplishing so desirable an object without concert of action on the part of the medical colleges, societies, and institutions of all the States, therefore,

“*Resolved*, That the New York State Medical Society earnestly recommends a National Convention of delegates from medical societies and colleges in the whole Union, to convene in the city of New York, on the first Tuesday in May, in the year 1846, for the purpose of adopting some concerted action on the subject set forth in the foregoing preamble.

“*Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed to carry the foregoing resolution into effect.”

This proposition led to a brief conversational discussion, in which some of the older members of the society related the former unsuccessful attempts to assemble a National Convention of medical men, which elicited a very general expression that the project was impracticable, if not positively Utopian. The resolutions, however, being strongly urged by the mover, who contended that if the object to be accomplished was one of acknowledged importance, its friends should persevere, although a dozen failures

should be encountered before their efforts met with entire success, were adopted, and Drs. N. S. Davis, of Binghampton, Broome Co., James McNaughton, of Albany, and Peter Van Buren, the Secretary of the State Society, were named as the Committee to carry them into effect. The chairman of this Committee, soon after his return to Binghampton, issued a circular, containing the preamble and resolutions quoted above, and sent a copy to each of the colleges and societies known to exist throughout the United States, and to many prominent members of the profession in sections of the country where no social organizations had been formed. The correspondence thus begun was actively continued throughout the whole year. An examination of this correspondence shows that the proposition to hold a National Convention met with a favorable response from societies, colleges, and individuals, throughout the whole Union, except those colleges located in Philadelphia and Boston. To the circulars and letters addressed to the Medical College in Boston, and the two oldest colleges in Philadelphia, answers were returned, respectfully declining to take any part in the proposed Convention. The then recently organized Pennsylvania College, located in the latter city, returned a more favorable answer, with a promise that delegates from that school should be appointed to attend the Convention. The extent to which the correspondence had been carried, and the degree of favor with which the proposition for a Convention had been entertained by the profession, may be inferred from the following extract from the report of the chairman of the Special Committee, made to the annual meeting of the New York State Society, in February, 1846, viz:—

“Replies to these circulars and letters have been received from the following officers of medical societies and colleges, and private members of the profession, viz: Drs. W. W. Morris, of Dover, Delaware; A. H. Buchanan, of Tennessee; W. P. Johnston, of Washington City; T. T. Hewson, R. M. Huston, and W. E. Thorne,

of Philadelphia; Luther Ticknor, of Connecticut; W. H. McKee, of North Carolina; E. H. Peaslee, of N. Hampshire; Paul F. Eve, of Georgia; J. H. Thompson, of N. Jersey; J. W. Davis, of Indiana; A. Twitchell, of New Hampshire; John W. Draper, A. H. Stevens, Willard Parker, and C. A. Lee, of New York; D. Drake, of Ohio; Lawson, of Kentucky; and Carpenter, of Louisiana. And delegates have been freely pledged from medical societies and colleges in Maine, New Hampshire, Connecticut, New Jersey, Delaware, District of Columbia, South Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, and New York. Nearly every Medical Journal, throughout the whole Union, has not only favorably noticed, but warmly commended the holding of such a Convention. * * * * *

It will thus be seen that, in far the larger part of our Union, the invitation of this society has met with a prompt and hearty response from the profession; and it is with much regret that we find even a few institutions declining to take any part in so important a movement. But when we consider the wide extent of our territory, and the great number of our institutions, all engaged, we should hope, in a generous rivalry with each other, the expression in favor of a Convention is certainly more unanimous, and more promising of good, than could have been anticipated. Indeed, the leading and influential members of the profession have long felt the necessity of some national action; some central point of influence, around which the active and choice spirits of the whole profession can rally, and from which may be made to radiate an elevating, healthful, and nationalizing influence over the whole country."

In accordance with the recommendations of this report, the State Society appointed sixteen delegates to attend the proposed Convention, and accepted the invitation of the Faculty of the New York University, to hold the Convention in their college

edifice; commencing at 10 o'clock, A. M., on the first Tuesday in May following.

Besides the editorial notices, commending, in general terms, the proposition to hold a National Convention, which appeared in nearly all the medical journals of the country, during the year 1845, and which aided very much in rendering the movement successful, the *New York Journal of Medicine and the Collateral Sciences* published several communications from the author of the proposition, Dr. N. S. Davis, and also one from Dr. L. Ticknor, then President of the Medical Society of the State of Connecticut. These may be found in the numbers of the Journal for November, 1845, and January and March, 1846. The communication of Dr. Ticknor contains the first distinct proposition to perpetuate the action and influence of the contemplated National Convention, by organizing out of it a permanent "National Medical Society." He says: "Considering our extent of territory, and the number of States into which the Union is divided, it is by no means strange that the medical schools in the several States should gradually yield to other motives than a desire to promote the best interests of society by a thoroughly educated and properly disciplined medical faculty. It is fairly enough implied, if not perfectly obvious, that there exists no small degree of rivalry among our medical institutions and leading medical men; not, I fear, who shall furnish the most valuable and best wrought article, but who shall furnish the greatest quantity. *To furnish some antagonism to this tendency of our profession, which is from year to year gaining strength, influence and popularity, the writer knows of no one effort the profession can make that promises so much as to organize a National Medical Society, to meet annually, biennially, or triennially, having, if you please, a Vice-President and Committee of Correspondence in each State, &c.*"

The communications of Dr. Davis contain a more extended consideration of the whole subject of medical education. Its then

existing condition, throughout the country, is clearly set forth, and its defects severely criticized by the writer, while he earnestly recommends such action as is calculated to accomplish the following definite objects, viz:—

“First. The standard of preliminary or preparatory *education* should be greatly elevated, or, rather, a *standard* should be fixed, for there is none now, either in theory or in practice.

“Secondly. We should elevate the business of *private teaching* to that position which its intrinsic importance demands.

“Thirdly. A more uniform standard of qualifications should be required of the candidates for medical honors.

“Fourthly. We should devise some mode to stimulate the ambition, and arouse the energies of the profession to a higher state of intellectual activity and scientific inquiry.”

The importance of these propositions he illustrates at considerable length, and prominent among the means he urges for their practical accomplishment, is the organization of “*a permanent National Medical Society, by whose annual discussions, an exciting, vivifying, and healthful influence shall be exerted over the length and breadth of the country, until a correct and noble sentiment is engendered in the bosom of every member of the profession.*”¹

In the same number of the *New York Journal* from which I have just quoted, the editor, Dr. C. A. Lee, in earnestly appealing to the profession to make the proposed Convention truly national, by the attendance of delegates from every section of the country, makes the following allusion to a more permanent organization, viz: “But there are various other subjects, which would naturally come before such a Convention, of scarcely less interest and importance; and we should hope, as already intimated, that a *permanent National Society* would grow out of it, which would, like the “British Association,” meet annually, and at which essays

¹ See *New York Journal of Medicine, &c.*, March, 1846, page 290.

and reports on different branches of medicine would be read, and discussions held." In alluding to the call for the National Convention, the editor of the *Buffalo Medical and Surgical Journal*, in the number for October, 1845, says: "None can doubt the propriety, nay, the urgent necessity for the adoption of some means to elevate the standard of medical education, and advance the dignity and usefulness of the profession. * * *

We fervently hope that this movement will meet with general concurrence and cordial co-operation."

The editors of the *New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal*, and indeed of almost all the other journals, were equally explicit in commending the general object. Thus far, though the faculties connected with the colleges in Philadelphia and Boston had declined to co-operate in the general movement, no open opposition had been manifested from any quarter.

Like all other great movements, affecting more or less the interests of a large number of persons, the effort to convene a National Convention of the members of the medical profession was not to be crowned with success, without encountering decided and strong opposition. The movement having originated in a State society, and during a discussion in which some of the practices and privileges of the medical colleges were severely criticized, it is not surprising that it excited such a feeling of distrust in the minds of many of those connected with the colleges, as to deter them from cordially uniting in it. And this distrust was doubtless increased in certain quarters by the strong language, and, perhaps, too sweeping assertions, contained in one of the communications of Dr. N. S. Davis, in the *New York Journal of Medicine*, already referred to.

The latter were made the pretext for a very severe attack on the writer, the State Medical Society of New York, and all concerned in the movement for a National Meeting, by Prof. Martyn Paine, of the medical department of the New York University,

in the form of a valedictory address to the graduating class of that institution, delivered March 11, 1846. This address was styled "A Defence of the Medical Profession of the United States;" and was based on the assumption that the *active* members of the Medical Society of the State of New York generally, and the chairman of their Committee (Dr. Davis), in particular, had been slandering and defaming the profession to which they belonged. An assumption, however, so fully refuted by the whole history and conduct of that Society and the individuals concerned, as to require no comments or explanation at the present time.—As a very large edition of this address was published, and widely circulated throughout the Union, it may not be amiss to quote a paragraph or two, for the purpose of enabling the reader to appreciate its spirit and design. On page 20, Dr. Paine says:—"Nor shall I have discharged the office which I had assigned to myself, till I also place on record who they are that malign the great mass of American physicians, who are rendering more service to the cause of humanity than any equal proportion of the same profession in the most favored states of Europe. It is not the man who has officially promulgated the views of the State Medical Society, nor the journals through which the contumelious representation of the profession is circulated, that should be held responsible, any farther than as they, also, hold an influence over the public mind, and according, also, to the *animus*, and the extent in which that influence may be exerted. We must rather go to the fountain from which it emanates, and with acids and caustics try its purity. We must go to the State Medical Society itself, interrogate the *general character of those* who annually convene at Albany, during the *very opportune* session of the legislature, inquire *how far*, and *in what ways* they contribute to the dignity of the profession, and advance the interests of medical science. Nor would I invite an investigation of this nature for the same reasons that I have quoted from Percival's Medical

Ethics, were those members of the State Medical Society who annually convene at Albany, and do the mining operations, more than a bare handful of the outs, and were they not so erroneously supposed to represent the voice of the profession." Again, he says: "And now, perhaps we shall have no difficulty in understanding why it is so earnestly desired to *extend* the term of instruction in our medical colleges, and also as a preliminary requisite to admission into these institutions. *There is an aristocratic feature in this movement of the worst omen, however the spirit, by which it is prompted, may belong to the agrarian policy. It is oppression towards the poor, for the sake of crippling the medical colleges.*"

The foregoing are among the least exceptionable paragraphs of this address; and yet they plainly indicate a feeling of bitter opposition, if not contempt, towards those who are laboring to unite the profession of the whole Union in one general convention.—The actual influence of this address, exhibiting, as it did, a curious mixture of egotism, disgusting flattery of the class to which it was addressed, and bitter opposition to the movement for a National Convention, was very important, though widely different from what was designed by its author. It has already been stated that the medical department of the University of Pennsylvania, the Jefferson Medical College, and the local societies of Philadelphia, had declined to appoint delegates to the proposed Convention, and the chief apprehension felt by the Committee having charge of the subject, was that the absence of any representation from so important a locality, would seriously lessen the influence and success of the movement. But scarcely had the address of Prof. Paine reached the remoter sections of the country, before the chairman of the Committee of the New York State Society received a second letter from Prof. Huston, of Philadelphia, stating briefly that they had heretofore declined to appoint delegates to the proposed Convention, because, it having been called to meet in the city of New York, and in the college

edifice of the New York University, they had thought it calculated to attract undue attention directly towards the medical schools of that city. But, on reading "*the very singular address of Prof. Paine,*" they were satisfied that whatever had been the motives of those who called the Convention, it was not designed particularly to benefit the medical schools in the city of New York; and hence he would immediately convene the Society over which he presided, to take into consideration the propriety of appointing delegates. This was done, and twelve eminent and active members of the profession, in that city, were appointed to attend the meeting in New York; thereby greatly adding to the success of the movement. We have in these details a most striking illustration of that jealousy and mutual distrust which is engendered by rival interests, unmodified by free and frequent personal intercourse. We find the Faculty of the medical department of the New York University violently opposing the movement for a National Convention, and stigmatizing its authors as "*miners*" and "*outs,*" (even after they had consented to have the meeting held in their own college-hall), because it originated in a State society whose meetings they had entirely neglected, and of whose influence they were jealous; while other most influential schools were withholding their aid and co-operation, because they *suspected* the whole movement calculated, if not designed, to favor in a special degree that same school in New York. It would be difficult to illustrate more strikingly, that sleepless jealousy which pervaded more or less all our medical schools, springing into existence in rapid succession, as they had done; or the necessity of some general organization, by which the representatives of all should be brought into personal contact and intercourse, until mutual distrust should give place to mutual respect and a common object.

On Tuesday, May 5, 1846, the delegates and members of the profession from different parts of the United States, who de-

signed attending the proposed National Convention, assembled, in accordance with the invitation of the New York State Society, in the hall of the medical department of the New York University. They were called to order by Dr. Edward Delafield, of New York, on whose motion Dr. John Bell, of Philadelphia, was appointed chairman, and Dr. William P. Buel, of New York, secretary, until permanent officers should be duly chosen. A committee was then appointed to receive the credentials of delegates, consisting of Drs. H. W. Baxley, of Maryland, N. S. Davis, of N. York, and Richard D. Arnold, of Georgia. This Committee soon reported the reception of credentials, containing the names of one hundred and nineteen delegates, eighty of whom were present at the opening of the Convention.

The latter number was subsequently increased to near one hundred, representing societies and colleges in sixteen different States, viz: New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Georgia, Mississippi, Indiana, Illinois, and Tennessee.

A committee of one from each State represented, reported the names of the following gentlemen for permanent officers of the Convention, and they were unanimously elected, viz:—

For President,

Dr. JONATHAN KNIGHT,¹ of New Haven, Connecticut.

For Vice Presidents,

Dr. JOHN BELL, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Dr. EDWARD DELAFIELD, of New York City.

For Secretaries,

Dr. RICHARD D. ARNOLD, of Savannah, Georgia; Dr. ALFRED STILLÉ, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Thus was completed, in the midst of the most perfect har-

¹ For Biographical Sketch of Dr. Knight, see Appendix A.



JONATHAN KNIGHT, M.D.

PROFESSOR OF SURGERY IN YALE COLLEGE

Jonathan Knight,

mony and good feeling, the organization of the *first* National Convention of members of the medical profession ever convened in the United States. And when we remember that the number in attendance was at least respectable; that among them were many of the most eminent in the profession; that they were gathered from all sections of the Union, from the hills of New England, the broad prairies of the West, and the sunny plantations of the South; not, however, for purposes of political preferment or pecuniary gain, but to give each other the warm hand of friendship, and unite in the adoption of measures for the elevation and advancement of the noblest of temporal pursuits, we are constrained to regard it as one of the most interesting assemblages ever convened, since the organization of the benign government under which we live.

As soon, however, as the officers elect had been conducted to their respective places, Dr. Gunning S. Bedford, a colleague of Prof. Martyn Paine, and a delegate from the Faculty of the medical department of the New York University, arose, and after some general remarks in reference to the benefits of a general convention of medical men, moved the following preamble and resolution, viz:—

“WHEREAS, the call of the State Medical Society of New York, for a National Medical Convention, to be held in the city of New York, on the first Tuesday in May, has failed in a representation from one-half of the United States, and from a majority of the medical colleges; and *whereas*, the State Medical Society has emphatically stated that there is no mode of accomplishing the object of the Convention, without concert of action on the part of medical societies, colleges, and institutions of *all* the States, therefore,

“*Resolved*, That this Convention adjourn *sine die*.”

This proposition was immediately seconded by Dr. G. S. Patison, a colleague of Professor Bedford, and delegate from the same Faculty. This proposition, coming at such a time, and

directly from the representatives of the school in whose college building the Convention had assembled, took every member by surprise. But after one or two minutes of entire silence, the *question* was very generally called for, and being taken by *yeas* and *nays*, resulted as follows, viz:—

Yeas, 2, Drs. Bedford and Pattison. *Nays*, 74.

The result of the vote having been announced, considerable warmth of feeling was manifested by many members, who regarded the motion of Dr. Bedford as a deliberate attempt to break up the Convention, and as little less than an insult to all its members.

Several motions were made, having for their object an immediate withdrawal from the college edifice of the New York University, but after explanations and apologies from both Drs. Bedford and Pattison, the subject was laid on the table. A committee of nine was then appointed "to bring the subject of medical education before the Convention, in the form of distinct propositions, suitable for discussion and action." This Committee readily agreed upon the following propositions, viz:—

First. That it is expedient for the medical profession of the United States to institute a *National Medical Association*.

Secondly. That it is desirable that a uniform and elevated standard of requirements for the degree of M. D., should be adopted by all the medical schools in the United States.

Thirdly. That it is desirable that young men, before being received as students of medicine, should have acquired a suitable preliminary education.

Fourthly. That it is expedient that the medical profession in the United States should be governed by the same code of medical ethics.

These were reported to the Convention, with the recommendation that a committee of seven be appointed on each subject, whose duty it should be to report at a meeting to be held in the

city of Philadelphia, on the first Wednesday in May, 1847. The same Committee also recommended the appointment of a committee of seven, "to prepare and issue an address to the different regularly organized medical societies, and chartered medical schools in the United States, setting forth the objects of the National Medical Association, and inviting them to send delegates to the Convention to be held in Philadelphia, in May, 1847."

These propositions were all adopted by the Convention, and the required committees appointed. Dr. N. S. Davis, who was chairman of the Business Committee, urged the following resolution as one suitable to be recommended, as an additional subject for the consideration of the Convention. It was opposed by Dr. Hays, and other members of the Committee, on the ground that it would be likely to excite discord, and was rejected by the Committee.

"*Resolved*, That the union of the business of *teaching* and *licensing* in the same hands is wrong in principle, and liable to great abuse in practice. Instead of conferring the right to *license* on medical colleges, and State and County medical societies, it should be restricted to one board in each State, composed in fair proportion of representatives from its medical colleges, and the profession at large, and the pay for whose services as examiners, should in no degree depend on the *number* licensed by them."

The same resolution was subsequently handed to Dr. O. S. Bartles, and by him presented to the Convention. An interesting and spirited discussion followed, which was participated in by Drs. Sumner, F. Campbell Stewart, Meredith Clymer, Isaac Parrish, H. W. Baxley, J. R. Manley, S. Hasbrouck, and N. S. Davis. Motions were made by those opposed to entertaining the resolution, to lay it on the table, and to refer it to some one of the committees already appointed. These motions were either withdrawn, or severally voted down, and the resolution was finally referred to a special committee of seven, with instructions to re-

port on the same, at the meeting proposed to be held in Philadelphia, in May, 1847. On motion of Dr. John H. Griscom, committees were appointed to report at the same time and place, on the most efficient measures for effecting a *registration* of births, marriages, and deaths, throughout all the States of the Union; and also on a *nomenclature* of diseases adapted to the United States, having reference to a general registration of deaths. After passing the usual resolutions, complimenting the officers of the Convention, and thanking the medical colleges of the city, for freely tendering the use of their rooms for its meetings, the session was adjourned *sine die*, on the evening of May 6th, 1846. All the business of the Convention was conducted with decorum and the most cordial friendship, except that relating to the preamble and resolution introduced by Dr. Bedford, and even this gave rise to only a momentary feeling of excitement or rather indignation, which was quickly lost in the universal determination to act solely for the elevation and advancement of the whole profession. The Convention was fortunate in the selection of its officers. Dr. Knight not only presided with dignity, but displayed a familiarity with parliamentary usages, and a promptness and pleasing urbanity rarely united in the same individual. In looking over the list of delegates in attendance, the reader will be surprised at the disparity of representation from States located equally contiguous to the place of meeting.

Thus, of the New England States, Connecticut had five delegates; Massachusetts, *one*; Rhode Island, *one*; Vermont, *three*; New Hampshire, *two*; and Maine none. Of the Middle States, Pennsylvania had fourteen, two of whom represented the medical department of Pennsylvania College, while all the rest were delegates from the Philadelphia Medical Society; Delaware had five, all of whom represented medical societies; and New Jersey had only *two*, who were made members by invitation. Of the Southern States, Maryland had one; Virginia, three; Georgia, one; Miss~~is~~

issippi, one; and Tennessee, one. Of the Western States, Indiana had one; and Illinois, one. This leaves little more than half of the entire number present to represent the State of New York, while Maine, North and South Carolina, Alabama, Louisiana, Kentucky, Missouri, Ohio, Michigan, and Texas, were entirely unrepresented. Eleven medical colleges were represented, constituting only about one-third of the whole number in the United States. The absence of a representation from so large a number of States and colleges, was owing to various causes. In some States, neither medical societies nor colleges existed, and individual members of the profession did not feel free to take upon themselves the office of delegates. This was the case in North Carolina, and virtually so in most of the unrepresented States in the South and West. For, though State and district medical societies had been previously organized in most of them, yet they had ceased to maintain an active existence. Another cause was a want of confidence in the success of the movement.

Many, who ardently desired a full Convention, and were friendly to any measures calculated to elevate the standard of medical education, were deterred from attending, by the belief that a sufficient number of others would not attend, to warrant the transaction of any business of importance. But still another cause, which affected more particularly the medical colleges, was a feeling of distrust in regard to the *motives* of those who issued the call for the Convention. There was a feeling of apprehension, increased to some extent doubtless by the address of Professor Paine, that the whole movement originated in a spirit of radicalism and enmity to the schools; and though such a feeling was without the shadow of a foundation in fact, yet it was evidently the chief cause of preventing the attendance of delegates from a majority of the medical colleges in the Union. Another feature which will strike the mind, in looking over the list of delegates in attendance, is the absence of those to whom the profession had

long been accustomed to look as leaders in all important professional matters. We look over the list in vain for the names of Warren, Mussey, Stevens, Chapman, Drake, and other veteran teachers in medicine. Almost the only ones present belonging to this class, were Drs. Knight, Manley, Stearns, and Delafield. Hence, it may be said with propriety that the Convention was composed of the younger, more active, and, perhaps, more ambitious members of the profession.

And yet, both the discussions and action of the Convention were characterized by that moderation, coupled with a spirit of determined perseverance, which was well calculated to inspire confidence alike in the motives of its members and the final success of the enterprise in which they had engaged. It will be noticed, that all the proceedings of this meeting were made to assume the character strictly of preliminary action. Instead of hastily declaring their sentiments by formal resolutions, or at once recommending measures about which there might be differences of opinion, they simply selected the most important topics connected with the education of the profession, and referred them to able committees, with instructions to report, after ample time for deliberation.

They also declared the necessity and feasibility of establishing a National Medical Association, and appointed a judicious committee, consisting of Drs. John Watson, John Stearns, F. Campbell Stewart, A. Stillé, N. S. Davis, W. H. Cogswell, and E. D. Fenner, to report a definite plan of organization for such an Association, at a subsequent meeting to be held in Philadelphia.

There was consequently no manifestation of that "agrarian" spirit, or enmity towards existing institutions, which Dr. Paine, and perhaps others, had attributed to the active members of the New York State Medical Society, and especially to Dr. Davis, the originator of the movement.

From all the foregoing details, it will be apparent that the great

leading object of those who originated and carried into effect the Convention of May, 1846, was the improvement of our system of medical education.

That it was very defective in many important particulars, had long been acknowledged by the most experienced teachers in the country. This will be manifest to any one who will take the trouble to read the essays and addresses of Drake, Moultrie, Dickson, Beck, and others. It was the hope of devising measures to remove these defects, and to render more useful, more learned, and more honorable, the great mass of American practitioners, coupled with the consciousness that no mere local action or influence would prove efficient, which gave birth to the movement. And it was a very general conviction of its paramount importance that led to such a response on the part of the profession as insured its success. How far this great leading object has been kept in view, and with what practical results, will appear as we progress with the subsequent history of the Association.

1847.

ORGANIZATION OF THE ASSOCIATION AT PHILADELPHIA.

AFTER the signal failure of the delegates from the New York University to interrupt the progress of the Convention which assembled in New York, no further open opposition to the movement which had been commenced was manifested previous to the next meeting. On the contrary, the President, Dr. Knight, shortly after the first meeting, issued an address to the profession on behalf of the Committee appointed for that purpose, in which he set forth briefly and clearly the objects aimed at, and urged upon the profession the importance of a more full representation at the adjourned meeting to be held in Philadelphia. The medical periodicals of the country, very generally, published the proceedings of the Convention in New York, and thereby aided much to bring the subject to the notice of a larger number of members of the profession. In the mean time, valedictory and anniversary addresses were written and widely circulated, discussing, more or less, the subject of medical education, by Drs. John W. Francis, John Watson, and F. Campbell Stewart, of New York; Drs. Samuel Jackson and Alfred Stillé, of Philadelphia; Dr. S. H. Dickson, of Charleston; and many others. The combined influence of all these agencies, with the continued exertions of those who first put the ball in motion, served to awaken an almost universal interest in the subject. On the 5th of May, 1847, the delegates appointed by the societies, colleges, and other medical institutions throughout the several States, assembled in the hall

of the "Academy of Natural Sciences," in Philadelphia, and were cordially welcomed by Dr. Isaac Hays, chairman of the Committee of Arrangements, who called the Convention to order, and nominated Dr. Jonathan Knight, of New Haven, as temporary Chairman.

This nomination was unanimously confirmed, and Drs. Arnold, of Georgia, and Stillé, of Philadelphia, were appointed Secretaries. A committee for the reception of credentials of delegates was appointed, and another, consisting of one member from each State represented, to report the names of suitable candidates for election as permanent officers of the Convention. The first Committee reported, as present, the names of near *two hundred and fifty* delegates, representing more than *forty* medical societies, and *twenty-eight* colleges, embracing medical institutions in twenty-two States and the District of Columbia. The Committee on Nominations recommended for President, Dr. Jonathan Knight, of Connecticut; for Vice-Presidents, Drs. Alexander H. Stevens, of New York, George B. Wood, of Pennsylvania, A. H. Buchanan, of Tennessee, John Harrison, of Louisiana; and for Secretaries, Drs. R. D. Arnold, of Georgia, Alfred Stillé, of Pennsylvania, and F. Campbell Stewart, of New York. These were all unanimously elected by the Convention. The first business of importance which engaged the attention of the Convention, was the reports of the committees appointed at the previous meeting in New York. Reports were received during the first day, from Dr. John Watson, of New York, chairman of the Committee appointed "to prepare a plan of *organization for a National Medical Association*"; from Dr. John H. Griscom, of New York, chairman of the Committee appointed to consider the subject of procuring from the State governments, uniform and efficient laws for the registration of births, marriages, and deaths; also from the same on a general *Nomenclature of Diseases*; from Dr. James Couper, of Delaware, chairman of the Committee "on Preliminary Education;" and from Dr. Isaac Hays,

on the subject of Medical Ethics. These several reports, except the last, were received, laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

During the following morning session, additional reports were received from Dr. John Bell, chairman of the Committee appointed to prepare a Code of Medical Ethics; from Dr. James McNaughton, of Albany, chairman of the Committee appointed to consider the subject of the Union of *Teaching* and *Licensing* in the same hands, signed by a *minority* of the Committee; and another report on the same subject, from Dr. Isaac Parrish, of Philadelphia, signed by a *majority* of the Committee. These reports were also received and ordered to be printed. The report of Dr. Couper, from the Committee on the subject of "Preliminary Education," was first taken up for consideration; and, after a free interchange of opinions, the report, with the resolutions appended thereto, was adopted, and ordered to be published as a part of the proceedings of the Convention. The resolutions as adopted were as follows, viz:—

"*Resolved*, That this Convention earnestly recommends to the members of the medical profession throughout the United States, to satisfy themselves, either by personal inquiry or written certificate of competent persons, before receiving young men into their offices as students, that they are of good moral character, and that they have acquired a good English education, a knowledge of natural philosophy and the elementary mathematical sciences, including geometry and algebra, and such an acquaintance, at least, with the Latin and Greek languages as will enable them to appreciate the technical language of medicine, and read and write prescriptions.

"*Resolved*, That this Convention also recommends to the members of the medical profession of the United States, when they have satisfied themselves that a young man possesses the qualifications specified in the preceding resolution, to give him a written certificate stating that fact, and recording also the date of his admission as a medical student, to be carried with him as a warrant for his reception into the medical college in which he may intend to pursue his studies.

“Resolved, That all the medical colleges in the United States be, and they are hereby recommended and requested to require such a certificate of every student of medicine applying for matriculation ; and when publishing their annual lists of graduates, to accompany the name of the graduate with the name and residence of his preceptor, the name of the latter being clearly and distinctly presented as certifying to the qualification of preliminary education.”

Moderate as is the standard of preliminary attainments required by these resolutions, there were some in the Convention who spoke in opposition to its adoption, on the ground that it would prevent many young men of limited means from entering the profession, whose natural endowments would carry them to the highest rank, notwithstanding their inadequate preliminary preparation.

On the other hand, it was admitted that there had been countries and periods in the world's history, when the obstacles, pecuniary and otherwise, in the way of gaining a knowledge of the ordinary branches of science, were so numerous as to preclude all but the favored few from its enjoyment. In such places, and at such times, the objection to the resolutions might have some force. But in our country of school-houses and almost unlimited facilities for acquiring a knowledge of, at least, the ordinary branches of learning, *that young man who had not mental energy and perseverance enough to comply with the standard proposed in the resolutions, certainly had not enough to enable him to do justice to a profession as extensive, intricate, and arduous as ours.*

The latter view was urged with much force by Dr. N. S. Davis, then a delegate from the New York State Medical Society. The resolutions were adopted by nearly a unanimous vote; and the recommendations they contain have been reaffirmed by almost every meeting of the American Medical Association since.

The Convention next took up the report of Dr. R. W. Haxall, of Va., chairman of the Committee appointed to recommend a uniform standard of requirements for the degree of M. D. The

several resolutions appended to the report were considered *seriatim*, and after receiving various amendments, were adopted as follows, viz:—

“*Resolved*, 1st, That it be recommended to all the colleges to extend the period employed in lecturing from four to *six* months.

2d, That no student shall become a candidate for the degree of M. D., unless he shall have devoted *three* entire years to the study of medicine, including the time allotted to attendance upon the lectures.

3d, That the candidate shall have attended two full courses of lectures; that he shall be twenty-one years of age, and in all cases shall produce the certificate of his preceptor, to prove when he commenced his studies.

4th, That the certificate of no preceptor shall be received, who is avowedly and notoriously an irregular practitioner, whether he shall possess the degree of M. D. or not.

5th, That the several branches of medical education already named in this report (viz: Theory and Practice of Medicine, Principles and Practice of Surgery, General and Special Anatomy, Physiology and Pathology, Materia Medica, Therapeutics, and Pharmacy, Midwifery, and Diseases of Women and Children, Chemistry and Medical Jurisprudence), be taught in all the colleges, and that the number of professors be increased to seven.

6th, That it is required of candidates that they shall have steadily devoted three months to dissections.

7th, That it is incumbent upon preceptors to avail themselves of every opportunity to impart clinical instruction to their pupils, and upon medical colleges to require candidates for graduation to show that they have attended on *hospital* practice for one session, whenever it can be accomplished, for the advancement of the same end.

8th, That it be suggested to the faculties of the various medical institutions of the country, to adopt some efficient means for ascertaining that their students are actually in attendance on their lectures.

9th, That it is incumbent on all schools and colleges granting diplomas, fully to carry out the above requisitions.

10th, That it be considered the *duty* of preceptors to advise

their students to attend only such institutions as shall rigidly adhere to the recommendations herein contained."

Much opposition was manifested by some of those connected with the colleges, to the adoption of the *first* of the foregoing resolutions. It was alleged that the great majority of medical students could not be kept in attendance on the colleges continuously for *six* months; there being many in all the colleges who practically cut short even a four months course, by coming late, or leaving before the close. This, together with all the other resolutions, was adopted, however, by large majorities; and it is worthy of remark, that very few, if any, were found to claim that *less than six months* was really sufficient to present the various branches of medical science with that fulness which ought to be enforced in a college course.

The report on Medical Ethics, made by Drs. Bell and Hays, was very full and explicit, and was unanimously adopted by the Convention. The same was true of the reports of Dr. Griscom, on "a Registration of Births, Marriages, and Deaths," and on "a Nomenclature of Diseases adapted to the United States, having reference to a general registration of deaths." These were all adopted, and may be found in the first volume of *Transactions of the American Medical Association*. Another subject which elicited discussion and much attention, was that embodied in the following resolution, viz:—

"*Resolved*, That the union of the business of *teaching* and *licensing* in the same hands, is wrong in principle, and liable to great abuse in practice. Instead of conferring the right to license on medical colleges, and State and County medical societies, it should be restricted to one board in each State, composed in fair proportion of the representatives from its medical colleges and the profession at large, and the pay for whose services, as examiners, should, in no degree, depend on the number licensed by them."

It was stated on a preceding page, that this resolution was pre-

sented to the Convention in New York, by Dr. O. S. Bartles, and was referred to a special committee of seven, with directions to report at the meeting in Philadelphia. This Committee consisted of Drs. James McNaughton, of Albany, N. Y., and professor in the Albany Medical College; J. R. Manley, J. W. Francis, and Thomas Cock, of New York; Isaac Parrish, of Philadelphia; R. Blakeman, of Conn.; and J. Cullen, of Va. The chairman, Dr. McNaughton, made a report adverse to the general sentiment of the resolution, but which did not meet the views of a majority of the Committee.

His report closed with the following resolutions, viz:—

“*Resolved*, That inasmuch as an opinion prevails to a considerable extent in the profession, that certain abuses have crept into some of the colleges—namely, that they confer degrees upon persons who have not fully complied with their own requirements or on those who do not possess the requisite amount of knowledge to entitle them to such distinction, it is deemed expedient by this Convention, in order to satisfy the *just wishes* of the *profession*, and to remove *just* grounds of complaint, that such colleges as do not already possess mixed boards of examiners, *should consent to have associated with them, in the examinations for degrees, some members of the profession not engaged in teaching, or otherwise interested in such institutions.*

“*Resolved*, That the number of boards for granting licenses in the several States, should be as limited as would comport with the convenience of examiners and candidates in each State.”

Another report was made from the same Committee by Dr. Isaac Parrish, and signed also by Drs. J. R. Manley, J. W. Francis, and Thomas Cock. This report maintained in clear, yet conciliatory language, not only the *liability to*, but the *actual existence* of *abuses* in the granting of diplomas which were in themselves licenses to practise, and the right of the profession to apply some appropriate remedy. Without any specific recommendation, however, the report of Dr. Parrish concluded with the following preamble and resolution, viz:—

"WHEREAS, a general sentiment prevails in the medical profession that the active competition existing among the medical colleges of the Union has a tendency to lower the standard of professional requirements, and to depreciate the value of the degree; and *whereas*, the facilities with which charters for medical corporations are obtained from our State governments, exposes the medical profession to the continuance and increase of such abuses, inasmuch as these corporations possess alike the power of granting the license to practise; therefore *Resolved*, That in the opinion of this Convention, *some additional checks to the exercise of this right should be established* by the great body of the medical profession."

After considerable discussion, both the reports, and the resolutions appended to them, were disposed of by the adoption of a resolution referring the whole subject to the Committee on Medical Education, with instructions to report on the same at the next meeting of the American Medical Association.

Perhaps the most important subject which engaged the attention of this Convention was the report of the Committee on a Plan for organizing a Permanent *National* Association. This Committee, consisting of Drs. John Watson, John Stearns, F. Campbell Stewart, and N. S. Davis, of New York; A. Stillé, of Philadelphia; W. H. Cogswell, of New London, Conn.; and E. D. Fenner, of New Orleans, La.; reported, in full, a Constitution designed to effect a permanent national organization. The Committee adopted, as the basis of organization, the principle of *representation*, by making the acting members of the Association consist of delegates from medical societies and institutions, in accordance with a fixed numerical ratio. In the preamble attached to the Constitution, the purposes for which the Association is organized are declared to be, "for cultivating and advancing medical knowledge; for elevating the standard of medical education; for promoting the usefulness, honor, and interests of the medical profession; for enlightening and directing public opinion in regard to the duties, responsibilities, and requirements of medical men;

for exciting and encouraging emulation and concert of action in the profession; and for facilitating and fostering friendly intercourse between those engaged in it.

To more certainly effect these objects, the Committee deemed it important to hold out the strongest inducements for the formation of State and local Associations, which should be auxiliary to the national one. Hence, they so framed the Constitution as to make the great majority of the members of the National Association consist of *delegates* from permanently organized *State and county medical societies* throughout the Union.

To insure, also, a due share of the attention of the Association to the cultivation of medical science and literature, the Constitution provided for the annual appointment of standing committees, each consisting of seven members, on the following subjects, viz:—

A Committee on Medical Sciences; on Practical Medicine; on Surgery; on Obstetrics; on Medical Education; on Medical Literature; and on Publication. The articles of the Constitution were considered separately, and also various amendments, only one of which, however, proposed to alter essentially the basis or principle of organization. This was presented by Dr. Isaac Hays, of Philadelphia, and was as follows, viz:—

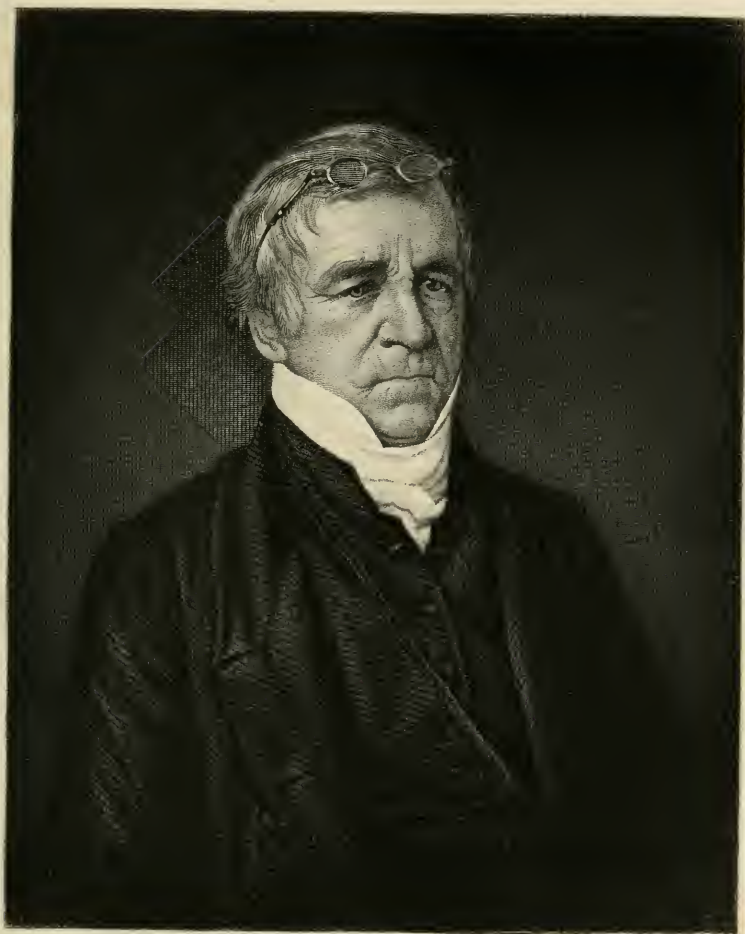
“*Resolved*, That the report be referred back to the Committee, with instructions to report a plan of organization in accordance with the following sketch:—

“1st. The Society to consist of members to be elected by the Association directly, or through its council.

“2d. Members, before admission into the Association, to sign a promise to conform to the laws of the Association.

“3d. Members who violate this pledge, to be liable to expulsion, and to be deprived of the rights of brotherhood.

“4th. For the appointment of a council, to consist of the officers of the Society, and of ——— councillors, to be elected annually, or all the former, and a portion at least of the latter, to be elected annually. The councillors to have the general superintendence



N. Chapman

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of the concerns and publications of the Association, and to report the proceedings of the Association at its annual meeting."

After considerable discussion, the proposition of Dr. Hays was lost, and the Constitution, as reported by the Committee, without any important amendments, was adopted by a large majority.

The Convention then resolved itself into the "American Medical Association;" and a committee, consisting of one from each State represented, was appointed to nominate officers of the Association for the ensuing year. The Committee soon reported the names of the following gentlemen, who were unanimously elected:—

President.

DR. NATHANIEL CHAPMAN,¹ of Pennsylvania.

Vice-Presidents.

DRS. JONATHAN KNIGHT, of Conn.; ALEXANDER H. STEVENS, of N. Y.; JAMES MOULTRIE, of S. C.; A. H. BUCHANAN, of Tenn.

Secretaries.

DRS. ALFRED STILLE', of Phila.; J. R. W. DUNBAR, of Baltimore.

Treasurer.

DR. ISAAC HAYS, of Philadelphia.

Dr. Chapman, on being escorted to the President's chair, addressed the Association in a few very earnest and appropriate remarks. Provision was made for appointing the several standing committees required by the Constitution, and also a committee of one from each State, to act under the following resolution, offered by Dr. N. S. Davis, of N. Y., viz:—

"*Resolved*, That a committee of one from each State represented in this Association be appointed by the President, whose duty it shall be to investigate the Indigenous Medical Botany of our country; paying particular attention to such plants as are now, or may hereafter, during their time of service, be found to possess

¹ For Biographical Memoir of Dr. Chapman, see Appendix B.

valuable medicinal properties, and are not already accurately described in the standard works of our country; and report the same in writing, giving not only the botanical and medical description of each, but also the localities where they may be found, to the next annual meeting of the American Medical Association."

After the adoption of the customary complimentary resolutions to the officers of the Convention, the Committee of Arrangements, &c., the Association adjourned. The session in Philadelphia continued three days, and ended, as it began, with the most cordial friendship among all its members, and a unanimous desire to elevate the character and extend the usefulness of the whole profession. In the foregoing brief sketch of the Convention which resulted in the formation of the National Association, I have by no means attempted to notice all its doings, but only such parts as were calculated to exert a general influence over the profession, or to throw light on the organization and objects of the latter. To the former belonged the reports and resolutions adopted concerning a higher and more uniform standard of preliminary education; more extensive requirements for the degree of Doctor of Medicine; the separation of the teaching and licensing powers, and the adoption of uniform registry laws; while to the latter belonged the formation and adoption of a Constitution.

The attentive reader will observe that two radically different principles were advocated as the basis of the national organization. The idea or principle entertained by the Committee, and embodied in the Constitution as adopted by the Convention, was, that the National Association should emanate directly from the local medical organizations and institutions, by making it consist of delegates appointed annually by such bodies, and thereby give it a legitimate claim to the character of a true representative of the whole profession; and to guard still farther against any liability to become sectional or localized in its character, a provision was incorporated in the Constitution, prohibiting the

holding of the annual meetings twice in succession in the same place. Two great leading ends were aimed at by the adoption of this principle of organization. The first was, that the recommendations of an Association thus constituted of delegates directly from the local societies and institutions of the profession throughout the whole country, would have more influence, both with the profession and the public, than one organized on any other plan. The second was, that it would constantly hold out a strong inducement to form and sustain in active operation, State, county, and city associations in every State in the Union.

The other principle was embodied in the proposition of Dr. Hays, already quoted. It proposed an organization, the members of which should be elected by itself, either directly or through a board of councillors, thereby making it essentially independent of the State and local societies and institutions. It was claimed for this, that it would give the Association greater stability, by rendering its membership more select and permanent, and thereby make it more efficient as an Association for the direct cultivation of medical science. The advocates of this plan have never been fully satisfied with the present Constitution of our National Association, but have almost annually sought to procure in it essential modifications. Thus far the original principle has been sustained, and the extent to which it has answered the expectations of its advocates will be seen in the sequel.

Another act illustrating the disposition of the originators of the Association to make it as truly national as possible, and as free from mere individual preferment, was the selection of the first President of the Association. It is almost universally customary in forming and carrying on social organizations, to elect as officers those who have been most active and efficient in promoting the objects sought. But the selection of Dr. Chapman was based on no such principle. He was selected solely because, from his age, his high attainments, and his position as one of the oldest

and most eminent teachers in the Union, he stood appropriately at the head of the whole profession. Hence, the selection was at once an act of liberality and a just tribute to age and deserved eminence.

Before adjourning, the Association selected Baltimore as the next place of meeting, and the Constitution fixed the time, on the first Tuesday in May of each year.

1848.

FIRST ANNUAL MEETING, AT BALTIMORE.

THE doings of the second National Convention, held in May, 1847, were noticed more or less in detail by the medical periodicals throughout the country; and with few exceptions, these notices were couched in terms of decided commendation. Several of the medical periodicals in this country were conducted by professors in the medical colleges, and a majority of them regarded the action of the Convention in reference to extending the *college term* to *six months*, as unwise and impracticable, but otherwise warmly commended its doings and objects. Dr. Samuel Annan, one of the professors in the Transylvania University, the oldest medical school in the west, carried his objections much further, and reviewed the proceedings of the Convention at considerable length in the *Western Lancet*, and his views were at least partially indorsed by the editor of that journal. Dr. Annan contended that the Convention was not properly a *national* one, because some sections of the country were represented very imperfectly, and many of the colleges not at all; and hence its recommendations were not binding either on the profession or the medical schools. He not only opposed the extension of the lecture term in the colleges to *six months*, as recommended by the Convention, but he opposed still more strenuously the resolutions adopted, setting forth a standard of preliminary education to be required before commencing the study of medicine.

These resolutions will be found on pages forty-two and forty-

three of this work. The standard requires simply, that the individual proposing to study medicine, shall have "*acquired a good English education, a knowledge of natural philosophy and the elementary mathematical sciences, including geometry and algebra; and such an acquaintance, at least, with the Latin and Greek languages, as will enable him to appreciate the technical language of medicine, and read and write prescriptions.*"

And yet Dr. Annan, gravely and at considerable length, contended that these requirements were too high; that they impose unnecessary burdens on the student, and, if exacted, would deter many from studying the profession, who would otherwise enter it with profit to themselves, and benefit to the community. This effort of Dr. Annan, like the address of Dr. Martyn Paine, previous to the first Convention, instead of diminishing the confidence of the profession in the doings and objects of those who assembled in Philadelphia, only served to call out able replies from several sources, both in the east and the west, and thereby direct the attention of a much larger number to the importance of the whole subject. Perhaps the most important of these replies was that of Dr. Sutton, of Georgetown, Kentucky, published in the *Western Journal of Medicine and Surgery*. He refuted all the special pleading of Prof. Annan with sound arguments and happy illustrations. But while some of the resolutions adopted by the Philadelphia Convention were objected to by such journals as were connected with the medical colleges, they were almost unanimously approved by the great mass of active practitioners, as represented in the several State and county or district societies. Indeed, one of the earliest and most important results which followed the organization of a permanent National Association, was the organization of new societies and associations in States where none existed before, and the revival of many old societies which had ceased to maintain an active existence.

During the period intervening between the sitting of the Con-

vention in Philadelphia, and the next annual meeting in Baltimore, new State medical societies were organized in South Carolina, Alabama, and Pennsylvania; and the old ones were greatly invigorated in Georgia, Mississippi, Tennessee, Ohio, and Wisconsin. In all these, and many others in the Middle and New England States, resolutions were adopted, cordially sanctioning the action of the National Convention, particularly in reference to the subject of preliminary and medical education. The following resolutions, adopted by the Medical Society of the State of Delaware, at its annual meeting in December, 1847, will afford a fair representation of the action of nearly all the State medical societies in the United States, in reference to the same subject.

“*Resolved*, That this Society regard the unanimity which characterized the proceedings of the National Medical Convention, at its annual meeting in May last, and the prospective field of action then unfolded, as sources of gratification, and as calculated to advance the best interests of the medical profession, and of the community at large, by elevating the standard of medical education and ethics, and by exciting a spirit of scientific investigation throughout the Union.

“*Resolved*, That this Society coincide in the recommendation of the Convention, as respects *preliminary* education, the requirement of the medical schools, and registration of births, marriages, and deaths; and that its efforts shall be directed to the advancement of the objects therein contemplated.”

But while the proceedings of the great National Medical Congress, at Philadelphia, were thus explicitly ratified and sanctioned by the great body of American practitioners, as represented in the State and local societies, it is evident that most of those directly connected with the medical schools, looked upon the whole movement with distrust, chiefly, however, on account of the proposed extension of the lecture term to *six months*. That they felt strongly the moral force of the recommendation, was evident both from the comments of such medical journals as re-

presented particular schools, and from attempts to partially comply with the requisition. Thus the medical department of the University of Pennsylvania promptly extended its lecture term to six months, thereby complying with the recommendation in full; the College of Physicians and Surgeons, the oldest and most influential school in New York, extended its term to *five* months; while most of the remaining schools contented themselves with the addition of from two to four weeks of preliminary instruction, on which their classes might attend or not, as they chose.

Such seems to have been the immediate and obvious influence produced by the organization of the American Medical Association, and the two National Conventions that preceded it.

The first regular annual meeting of the Association commenced its session on the 2d day of May, 1848, in the city of Baltimore. At 11 o'clock A. M., the President, the venerable Dr. Nathaniel Chapman, of Philadelphia, took the chair and opened the session with a very brief, but eloquent and appropriate address. In applying the word *appropriate*, to the remarks of Dr. Chapman, I do not wish to be understood as indorsing fully, one of the prominent sentiments then uttered by him, and which reads as follows, viz: "The profession to which we belong, once venerated on account of its antiquity—its varied and profound science—its elegant literature—its polite accomplishments—its virtues—*has become corrupt and degenerate, to the forfeiture of its social position*, and with it, of the homage it formerly received spontaneously and universally." It would be exceedingly gratifying to know *when was* that golden period in the history of medicine, characterized by *profound science and elegant literature*, coupled with the *polite accomplishments* and exalted *virtues* of its votaries.

It could not have been at a very ancient period; for, with the exception of here and there a brilliant star in the medical firmament, we find in all the earlier centuries, instead of profound medical science, only a medical literature corrupted by an inter-

mixture of all the mythological, alchemistical, and superstitious dogmas of the times. Indeed, Dr. Chapman himself, in the same brief address, tells us that, "with the *present century*, the *spirit of philosophy* began to be infused into it (medicine), creative of *real* and substantial improvements in its theories and modes of practice, raising it from a *low and conjectural art*, to a *place among the legitimate sciences*." The present century commenced with the year 1800; and if with that began the first real infusion of the spirit of true philosophy into medical science and literature, resulting in their subsequent elevation to a "place among the legitimate sciences," then surely, we must search for the *golden age* alluded to, among the records of the last fifty years; that is, within a period covered by the professional career of Dr. Chapman himself. Now the idea that the profession, in any of its aspects, has become more *corrupt* and *degenerate* during that brief period, will appear simply ridiculous to all who are familiar with its history. I know it may be said that Dr. Chapman referred more particularly to its "*social position*," than to its progress in science. The time has been, doubtless, when a powdered wig, a golden-headed cane, and a pompous display of the mythological jargon of past centuries, elicited from the superstitious multitude an admiring deference and blind homage unknown at the present day. But was that a social position to be desired; or to be remembered with regret by enlightened minds of the nineteenth century? I think not. And I further think, that we shall search the records of the past in vain, to find a period when the profession possessed more profound science—more elegant literature—more varied accomplishments—or more exalted virtues—than at the present time.

The idea that there has been, during the last century, any period when the profession has become corrupt and degenerate, in any of its aspects, whether scientific, literary, moral, or social, is delusive and untrue. False pretenders and quackery have abounded

in every age, from that of Hippocrates to the present. But legitimate medicine has advanced with every step of progress in general science and philosophy. And during the last half century, especially, has every branch of the *healing art* become enriched and expanded by an accumulation of facts, and the application of philosophical principles of research, beyond any other period that can be named. It is this very rapid advance in science and literature which has made ignorance in the profession more apparent, exposed more fully the tricks and arts of mere pretenders, and brought the whole profession more rigidly to the necessity of resting its claims to public confidence on its actual attainments. The real boundaries of medical science, the sum total of medical knowledge, has also immensely increased, as is easily demonstrated by comparing the text-books and medical literature of 1800 with those of 1850. And yet, with all this increase of medical science and literature, including the applications of the microscope, organic chemistry, and physical means of diagnosis, the nominal term of medical pupilage has remained the same.

The medical schools attempt to teach the medical science of 1850, in the same number of weeks as they did that of 1800. Hence the real cause of that restlessness of the professional mind, and that demand for reform which resulted in the formation of the American Medical Association, was not corruption and degeneracy, nor a consciousness of social degradation; but it was the failure on the part of the profession at large to exact, of those proposing to enter its ranks, a general education, corresponding with the extent and intricacy of the medical field before them, and an equal failure of the medical schools to extend and systematize their courses of lectures in a ratio with the rapidly extending sciences which they professed to teach.

The whole number of delegates present at the meeting in Baltimore was 266, representing societies and medical institutions in



Alex H. Stevens.

ALEXANDER H. STEVENS, M.D.

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twenty-one States, and the District of Columbia. After a variety of motions and some ballottings, a committee of one from each State represented in the Convention, was appointed to recommend suitable candidates for officers of the Association during the coming year. Dr. Chapman, in his opening address, had expressly declined being a candidate for re-election, and urged upon the Association the propriety of adopting the principle of *rotation* in office. On the morning of the second day of the session, the Nominating Committee reported the following list of candidates, who were unanimously elected as the officers of the Association, viz:—

President.

DR. ALEXANDER H. STEVENS,¹ of New York.

Vice-Presidents.

DRS. J. C. WARREN, of Mass.; SAMUEL JACKSON, of Pennsylvania; PAUL F. EVE, of Georgia; W. M. AWL, of Ohio.

Secretaries.

DRS. ALFRED STILLÉ, of Philadelphia; H. I. BOWDITCH, of Boston.

Treasurer.

DR. ISAAC HAYS, of Philadelphia.

Dr. Stevens, on being conducted to the chair, returned his thanks to the Association for the honor conferred, and added some very excellent remarks. The most important subjects which engrossed the attention of the Association during the session, were embodied in the reports of the standing committees appointed at the meeting in Philadelphia. The report on Medical Sciences, was made by Dr. W. T. Wragg, of Charleston, S. C.; that on Practical Medicine by Dr. Joseph M. Smith, of New York, to which was appended a very interesting paper on *Œdematous Laryngitis*, by Dr. Gurdon Buck, one of the Surgeons to the New York Hospital; and that on *Obstetrics*, by Dr. Harvey Lindsly

¹ For Biography of Dr. Stevens, see Appendix C.

of Washington, D. C. These several reports were well written, and contained a very full *resumé* of the recent improvements made in these important departments of medical science. The report on Surgery was made by Dr. George W. Norris, of Philadelphia, to which was appended three papers on anæsthetic agents in surgical practice, namely, one by Dr. Isaac Parrish, of Philadelphia, one by Dr. Henry J. Bigelow, of Boston, and one by Dr. R. D. Mussey, of Cincinnati. These last named papers led to a somewhat protracted and very interesting discussion, during which much valuable information in relation to the use of ether, chloroform, and chloric ether, was communicated by Dr. J. C. Warren, and others.

The report from the Standing Committee on Medical Literature was made by Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes, of Boston; and that on Medical Education, by Dr. A. H. Stevens, of New York. The latter report was accompanied by a series of resolutions, declaring it to be the duty of the trustees of hospitals to open their wards for the purposes of *clinical* instruction; that every system of medical instruction should rest on the basis of practical demonstration and clinical teaching; and that medical colleges should gain access for their students to the wards of a well-regulated hospital; that no mere *political* considerations should influence the appointment of those who are to serve as hospital physicians and surgeons; that the recommendations of the Convention of May, 1847, in relation to preliminary education and the requisites for graduation, be reaffirmed by the Association; and some other items of less importance. These resolutions were discussed fully in committee of the whole, and finally adopted with one or two amendments. The resolution in relation to preliminary education, &c., as adopted, is as follows, viz:—

“*Resolved*, That this Committee reiterate and *strongly recommend* to the Association a practical observance of the resolutions appended to the report of the Committee on Preliminary Education,

and on the requisites for graduation submitted to the Medical Convention which assembled in Philadelphia in May, 1847."

The foregoing reports from standing committees occupy 240 pages of the volume of *Transactions*, and are well worthy of the perusal of every member of the profession. The paper of Dr. Buck on Œdematous Laryngitis, and the practicability of *scari-fying* the glottis, was illustrated by several well-executed colored plates, and is alone worth the cost of the whole volume.

The report of Dr. Holmes on Medical Literature criticizes, with severity, the proneness of American writers to content themselves with the position of *editors* of foreign works; and, with still greater severity, the character of some departments of our medical periodicals. But he closes his report without any more specific recommendations than the following, viz: "It is by indirect means, rather than by direct contrivances, that this desirable object (the improvement of our medical literature), is to be promoted; by elevating the standard of education; by the stern exclusion of unworthy articles from medical journals; by the substitution of original for parasitical authorship; and by introducing such a tone of general scholarship and scientific cultivation that the finer class of intellects may be drawn towards the ranks of the medical profession."

During the session of the Association, a communication was received from the medical department of the National Institute in reference to the sanitary condition of the United States, informing the Association that a committee had been appointed on that important subject, and inviting its aid and co-operation.

This was responded to by the Association, and a committee, consisting of twelve eminent members of the profession, was appointed to report on the subject at the next annual meeting.

Dr. T. O. Edwards, then a member of Congress from Ohio, made a very interesting communication to the Association on the subject of the *adulteration* of imported drugs, and the necessity of

a law of Congress requiring the inspection of drugs in all the principal seaport towns. The communication of Dr. Edwards was received with attention, and published in the *Transactions* of the Association. A formal *memorial* for such a law as had been proposed was drawn up and presented to Congress. A report, occupying 17 pages of the volume of *Transactions*, was made by the chairman of the Committee on Indigenous Medical Botany, Dr. N. S. Davis, of New York. This report was chiefly occupied with the discussion of the medicinal properties of the *rumex*, or water-dock; the *Lycopus virginicus*; the *Hamamelis virginicus*; and the *Cimicifuga racemosa*. It seems to have been the design of the chairman of this Committee to institute a thorough inquiry into the *real* medicinal properties of such native plants as had been reputed to possess valuable medicinal qualities, rather than the collection of mere botanical catalogues. And it is to be regretted that his design has not been fully carried out, for there is no subject that more imperiously demands a thorough investigation than this. This report was designed by its author, merely as the beginning of a work that would require years to complete. It was accompanied by two papers embodying extensive botanical catalogues of medicinal plants, one from Dr. Stephen W. Williams, of Massachusetts, and the other from Dr. F. P. Porcher, of South Carolina. These were returned to the Committee with the request that their investigations should be continued another year. On motion of Dr. Corbin, of Virginia, delegates were appointed to visit and exchange friendly intercourse with the British and Provincial Medical and Surgical Associations. Drs. George B. Wood, Jacob Bigelow, and H. H. McGuire, were appointed for that purpose. Various amendments to the Constitution were proposed, but could not be acted upon till the next annual meeting of the Association.

The several standing committees required by the Constitution were appointed, and the city of Boston selected as the place for

the next annual meeting. With the exception of a few items of discord at the commencement of the session, the proceedings of this meeting were conducted throughout with much harmony and good feeling. The session was continued three days, and evidently contributed much to increase the confidence of the profession in the permanency and value of the Association. It was evident that an active spirit of improvement had been aroused in every department of the profession.

It was manifest in the rapidly increasing social organization of the profession to which I have already alluded. It was equally manifest in the zeal with which the several committees appointed by the Association, entered upon the literary labors imposed upon them; and still more by the disposition to communicate valuable private papers, like those of Drs. Buck, Du Bois, and Edwards, which were presented at the present session.

And as the first regular annual session of the Association closed, I think every member felt willing to unite heartily in the following sentiment, which constituted the closing remark of Dr. Stevens on taking the presidential chair.

“Our Association stands forth without a parallel in its high purposes, and its means of accomplishing them. May it prove an exemplar of similar organizations in our sister republics of the Western Hemisphere, and exhibit in a new form to our brethren in Europe, the easy adaptation of our institutions to the great end of promoting the happiness of mankind.”

1849.

SECOND ANNUAL MEETING, AT BOSTON.

NOTHING of special interest occurred in relation to the American Medical Association, from the close of the annual meeting in Baltimore, until the commencement of the second anniversary in Boston, May 1, 1849. The minutes of the meeting in Baltimore were very generally published in the medical journals of the country, and the work of organizing State and local societies, as mentioned on a preceding page, continued to progress.

On the first day of May, 1849, the delegates and members assembled in the hall of the Lowell Institute, and at 10 o'clock A. M., were called to order by Dr. Alexander H. Stevens, of New York, President of the Association. Dr. J. C. Warren, of Boston, in behalf of the Massachusetts Medical Society, and the Committee of Arrangements, welcomed the delegates to their city, and extended to them the cordial greeting of the profession. The President then delivered an address, in which he alluded to the objects for which the Association was organized, and the important advantages expected to result from its action. More than four hundred members were present during the meeting, representing the profession and institutions of twenty-four States.

On the recommendation of a committee of one from each State represented, the following gentlemen were elected officers of the Association, viz:—



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JOHN C. WARREN
John C. Warren —

President.

DR. J. C. WARREN,¹ of Boston.

Vice-Presidents.

DRS. J. P. HARRISON, of Cincinnati; A. FLINT, of Buffalo; H. H. MAGUIRE, of Richmond; R. S. STEWART, of Baltimore.

Secretaries.

DRS. A. STILLÉ, of Philadelphia; H. I. BOWDITCH, of Boston.

Treasurer.

DR. ISAAC HAYS, of Philadelphia.

Dr. Warren, on being conducted to the chair, returned his thanks to the Association for the honor conferred; after which the reports of the Standing Committees were called for, and presented in order. Dr. D. F. Condie, chairman of the Committee on Practical Medicine, presented a lengthy report; only a part of which was read, when, on motion of Dr. A. H. Stevens, it was referred to the Committee of Publication. This was the beginning of a policy, which has resulted in the establishment of the practice of receiving and referring papers to the Publishing Committee, not only without being read to the Association, but without having been completed by their authors.

Dr. N. R. Smith, of Baltimore, chairman of the Standing Committee on Surgery, read the annual report on that subject.

The consideration of anæsthetic agents, the treatment of fractures, and the operations for vesical calculi, occupied much the larger share of the report. The Committee fully justified the use of anæsthetics in all important surgical operations, and gave preference to chloroform, over ether.

The report of the Committee on Obstetrics was presented and read by Dr. C. R. Gilman, of New York, acting chairman. This report was also occupied chiefly with the consideration of

¹ For Biographical Sketch of Dr. Warren, see Appendix, D.

anæsthetics, and their application in Obstetric practice. It was claimed by the author of this report, that the use of these agents was not only justifiable for the purpose of alleviating the pains of labor, but also that, in all *difficult* and *instrumental labors*, their application "*could not be rightfully withheld.*" This report also gave the preference to chloroform over all other anæsthetic agents. This, like the report on Surgery, was referred to the Committee on Publication, without discussion. They were published in the second volume of *Transactions* of the Association, and may be usefully consulted, both by students and practitioners of the healing art.

Dr. J. P. Harrison, of Cincinnati, chairman of the Committee on Medical Literature, presented and read a full and well written report; which was referred to the Committee on Publication.

The Committee claimed that much valuable literary material existed in the profession of our country, which was unknown to the public, on account of the inability of the authors to procure its publication. And they recommended the establishment of a Board of Publication, to whom such materials might be presented for examination and publication, if approved by them. The following resolution, appended to the report on Medical Literature, was adopted by the Association, and Drs. W. E. Horner, D. F. Condie, and Isaac Hays, of Philadelphia, appointed the Committee, viz:—

"*Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed, to take into consideration the measures recommended in this report, for the promotion of our national medical literature, with instructions to report at the next annual meeting."

On motion of Dr. G. B. Wood, the same Special Committee was instructed to report on an international copy-right law.

At a subsequent part of the session, Dr. Horner, in behalf of the Committee, reported the following resolution:—

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to memorialize Congress in favor of an international copy-right law."

The resolution was adopted, and Drs. G. B. Wood, T. E. Bond, and Isaac Hays, appointed the Committee, with instructions to prepare a memorial, and submit it to the next annual meeting of the Association. At this, as at all the preceding meetings of the Association, the subject of Medical Education occupied a large share of time and attention. Dr. F. Campbell Stewart, of New York, chairman of the Standing Committee on Medical Education, presented a full report, embracing an account of the medical institutions, requirements for graduation, number of students and professors, &c. &c., both in this country and Europe; also, an account of the legal requirements exacted of medical practitioners in the several States, and the rules and requirements of the Army and Navy Boards of Examiners.

The report urged strongly the adoption of a higher standard of preliminary education, to be exacted before allowing the student to enter upon the study of medicine, as the basis of all real improvement in the education of the profession. To secure this, all State and local societies were recommended to establish primary boards of examiners, whose duty it should be to examine all who proposed to study medicine within their respective districts, except such as were graduates of some literary institution, and grant to those qualified, certificates of such qualifications. A series of resolutions were appended to the report, designed to elicit direct action on the part of the Association.

They were as follows, viz:—

1. *Resolved*, That the attention of medical colleges be again directed to the resolutions of the Committee on Preliminary Education, adopted by the Medical Convention of 1847, and that they be advised to require from students that they shall, in all cases, produce certificates of preliminary education.

2. *Resolved*, That the several State and county societies, as well as all voluntary medical associations throughout the country,

be advised and requested to adopt the plan proposed by the Medical Society of the State of New York, at its last annual meeting, for insuring due attention to the subject of preliminary education.

3. "*Resolved*, That this Association does not sanction or recognize 'College Clinics' as *substitutes* for hospital clinical instruction, and that the medical colleges be again advised to insist, in all instances where it is practicable, on the regular attendance of their pupils during a period of at least six months, upon the treatment of patients in a well conducted hospital, or other suitable institution, devoted to the reception and care of the sick.

"4. *Resolved*, That it would conduce both to the convenience and advantage of students, if the subjects taught in the colleges were divided into two series; the one of which should be studied during the first year's attendance on lectures, and the other during the second session. And that examinations should be instituted at the close of the first course of lectures on the subjects taught during that course; certificates of which should be required prior to the final examination.

"5. *Resolved*, That it is the deliberate opinion of this Association, that the plan of examining students for medical degrees in private, and before one professor only at a time, is highly defective, and should be at once discontinued.

"6. *Resolved*, That examinations for medical degrees should be practical, and that it is desirable, as far as practicable, that they should be conducted in writing as well as *viva voce*.

"7. *Resolved*, That in view of the importance of a due knowledge of practical pharmacy, the medical schools be advised to require from candidates for degrees, that they should produce satisfactory evidence of having been engaged in compounding medicines and putting up prescriptions, either under the directions of their private preceptors, or in the shop of a recognized and qualified apothecary.

"8. *Resolved*, That the interests, both of the public and the medical profession, would be promoted by the establishment of boards of examiners in each of the States of the Union, to examine candidates for licenses to engage in the active practice of medicine and surgery.

"9. *Resolved*, That the standard of requirements established by

the examining boards of the several States, should be uniform, and that the examinations should, as far as practicable, be conducted in a similar manner.

"10. *Resolved*, That the examiners should, in all instances, satisfy themselves, that candidates are familiar with the elementary branches of general knowledge.

"11. *Resolved*, That for the purpose of carrying out the objects contemplated in the foregoing resolutions, a special committee of seven members be appointed to prepare a memorial and form of law in reference to the subject of the establishment of Boards of Medical Examiners, to be submitted to the Association at its next annual meeting."

The report of the Committee on Medical Education was accepted, and referred to the Committee on Publication, and the resolutions taken up for action thereon.

In this connection a communication was received from the New York Academy of Medicine, in the form of a series of resolutions, which had been adopted by that body. The resolutions advocated a higher standard of preliminary education, and a separation of the business of *teaching and licensing*, hitherto united in the college faculties. This communication, together with a letter from Dr. John Watson, of New York, was received and laid on the table.

The resolutions of the Committee on Medical Education were discussed at considerable length, in committee of the whole, and those numbered 1 and 3 adopted, and the rest either amended, rejected, or laid on the table. The Committee then rose and reported, when, on motion of Dr. Alexander H. Stevens, the whole subject of medical education, together with the resolutions just acted upon in committee, were referred to a special committee of three, with instructions to report the next morning. The President appointed Drs. A. H. Stevens, G. B. Wood, and J. Knight, the Committee. The communication from the Academy of Medicine, and the letter of Dr. Watson, were taken from the table and referred to the same Committee.

Dr. Stevens, in behalf of the Committee, reported back the 1st and 3d resolutions, already quoted, without alteration, and in addition the following:—

“Resolved, That the Association reiterate their approval of the resolutions in reference to medical education, adopted by the Convention, which met in Philadelphia, in May, 1847, and contained in pages 73 and 74 of the published proceedings of that Convention.

“Resolved, That physicians generally, throughout the Union, be advised and requested to require of those wishing to become their pupils, evidence of a proper general education, before admission into their offices.

“Resolved, That in accordance with a resolution of the American Medical Association, adopted May 4, 1847, it is earnestly recommended to the physicians of those States in which State medical societies do not exist, that they take measures to organize them before the next meeting of this Association.

“Resolved, That the State societies be recommended, after they shall have been organized, to recognize as regular practitioners none who have not obtained a degree in medicine, or a license from some regular medical body, obtained after due examination.

“Resolved, That the Association recommend to the various schools of medicine, to meet at Cincinnati before the next annual meeting of this Association.”

After much discussion, these resolutions were all adopted, together with the following, which was offered by Dr. T. E. Bond, of Baltimore, viz:—

“Resolved, That this Association recommend the encouragement of private medical institutions, strongly advising that dispensary practice be made, as far as possible, a part of the means of instruction.”

In connection with the report of the Committee on Medical Education, Dr. Ware, of Boston, presented a paper from the Faculty of Harvard University, against the proposition to extend the annual college terms to *six months*. This communication having been received and referred to the Committee on Publica-

tion, on motion of Dr. G. B. Wood, a committee of three was appointed to write and present to the Committee on Publication, a paper, setting forth the views of the Association in favor of a lengthened term. The President appointed Dr. Samuel Jackson, of Pennsylvania University, Dr. J. L. Atlee, and Dr. A. Stillé, of Philadelphia, the Committee.

This Committee discharged the duty assigned to it, and both papers may be found in the volume of *Transactions* for 1849.

Besides the reports of standing committees already noticed, Dr. L. P. Yandell, of Kentucky, chairman of the Committee on Medical Sciences, forwarded his report, which, in his absence, was referred to the Publishing Committee without being read.

The annual report of the Committee on Hygiene was presented and read by Dr. Isaac Parrish, of Philadelphia. It embodied much valuable information in relation to the sanitary statistics and condition of the more important cities of our country; and had appended a very lengthy and important report on the sanitary condition of Massachusetts, by Dr. Josiah Curtis, of Boston.

The annual report of the Committee on our Indigenous Medical Botany, &c., was presented by the chairman, Dr. N. S. Davis, with two papers appended, in the form of botanical catalogues of medicinal plants, one by Dr. S. W. Williams, of Massachusetts, and the other by Dr. F. P. Porcher, of South Carolina. All these, together with an interesting paper from Dr. Samuel Jackson, of Philadelphia, on the effects of tea and coffee on children and the laboring classes, were referred to the Committee on Publications, and may be found in the *Transactions* of that year.

On motion of Dr. A. H. Stevens, of New York, three additional committees were instituted, viz: A Committee of seven, on Forensic Medicine; one of like number on Indigenous Botany and Materia Medica; and another on Public Hygiene.

These, together with the former standing committees, were filled for the coming year by the Committee on Nominations.

It will be seen, both from the number of States represented, and the whole number of delegates in attendance, that the meeting of the Association in Boston, presented a very full representation of the medical profession of this country, not only as a whole, but also in its several departments and special interests. Hence, its action may be justly claimed as a fair expression of the sentiments of the great body of the profession. It was in view of this fact, that I quoted in detail the resolutions presented and adopted, concerning the all-engrossing subject of medical education and improvement. In a former part of this history, I have shown that this subject was the leading one which called forth the movement that resulted in the formation of the Association itself. And further, that in direct connection with the act of organization, the most decided stand was taken in favor of elevating the standard of attainments, both preliminary and medical; of extending the lecture terms in the several colleges; of making practical anatomy and clinical instruction essential elements in a course of medical study; and of extending and completing the social organization of the profession throughout the Union. It will be seen by the resolutions adopted and quoted above, that the meeting at Boston fully sanctioned and confirmed the action of the primary Conventions in New York and Philadelphia, in reference to all these topics. That the profession demands a higher standard of general education on the part of students of medicine, a more systematic and complete course of instruction on the part of the medical colleges, and a more rigid and disinterested examination of candidates for graduation, there can be no doubt.

The resolutions adopted at Boston and elsewhere abundantly indicate this. And yet, five years have passed away without the full accomplishment of any one of these objects. There are two

prominent reasons for this failure. The first consists in a disposition to look to the medical colleges for too large a share of the action necessary for the accomplishment of the objects desired.

Instead of regarding these institutions as mere schools for medical instruction, and demanding of them such action only as was calculated to render their courses of instruction more systematic and complete, they have been looked to for the practical execution of almost every specific recommendation which has been made by the Association on the subject of education. Thus, of the seven resolutions adopted at Boston, as reported by the Special Committee, of which Dr. Stevens was chairman, four related directly to the action of the medical colleges, two to the further organization and action of State medical societies, and one, couched in very general terms, was addressed to the individual members of the profession generally. The disposition to which I refer is well illustrated by the action taken in reference to preliminary education. The Convention at Philadelphia had declared the necessity of a more elevated standard of preliminary acquirements, but had pointed out no special mode for securing its adoption in practice. To supply this defect, one of the county medical societies of New York (I think the Erie County Society, assembled at Buffalo), appointed a Board of Censors, and made it the duty of all members to require of young men applying for admission into their offices as students of medicine, to bring a certificate from said Board, that they possessed the requisite preliminary education. The same measure was brought before the New York State Medical Society, at its next annual meeting, and resolutions were adopted, requiring all its members to demand of students, before admission into their offices, either a regular diploma from some established literary institution, or a certificate from a Board of Censors, that they possessed at least the amount of general knowledge set forth in the standard of preliminary attainments, adopted by the National Convention of 1847; and also recommending all

the county societies in that State, to appoint Boards of Censors for that purpose. It will be seen that the Standing Committee on Medical Education, which reported to the meeting of the Association in Boston, fully indorsed this plan, and in their second resolution, already quoted, recommended it for adoption by all the State, county, and voluntary medical associations throughout the whole country. This was a specific plan, fully within the control of the local profession everywhere, eminently practical in its nature, and well calculated to secure the end proposed; and yet, the Association, after adopting a resolution strongly advising the *medical colleges* "to require from students that they shall, *in all cases*, produce *certificates* of preliminary education," rejected this plan, and in its place adopted the very general and vague recommendation, "that physicians generally, throughout the Union, be advised and requested to require of those wishing to become their pupils, *evidence of a proper general* education, before admission into their offices." By such action, the Association directly refused to provide or recommend any regular mode by which the student was to procure the very certificate which the medical colleges were advised to require of him. Of course, the latter have paid no heed to the *advice*, and the subject of preliminary education remains very nearly where it was before the Association was organized; at least so far as regards the adoption of any general or uniform standard. If it was the general practice for students to commence their studies by enrolling their names on the matriculation book of some medical college, and attending a course of lectures on the more elementary branches, such as anatomy, chemistry, physiology, &c., then there would be propriety in requesting the colleges to require, in all cases, a certificate of proper preliminary education. But it is well known that nine-tenths of all the students first enter the office of some practitioner, and there pursue their studies from six months to two years, before they attend any medical college. When they come

to the college, they bring to the Faculty letters of introduction from their preceptors, setting forth that they have studied a certain length of time, and possess good moral characters. Suppose it is soon ascertained that one-half of them are sadly deficient in their general education; a second look at their letters of introduction and certificates of study will show that their preceptors are members of the *State Medical Society*, in good standing, and not unfrequently, even members of the American Medical Association. Now, is it reasonable to suppose, that the colleges will ever go back of the private preceptors, and take the responsibility of shutting such students out of their halls? Certainly not. But they will continue, as they have done, to claim that the responsibility of exacting proper preliminary education is with the profession at large, and that the place to demand evidence of it, is at the door of the office in which the pupil proposes to commence his studies. In this, the colleges are right, and the sooner the members of the profession can be made to feel their individual responsibility in the matter, the better for all parties. And this leads directly to what we deem the second great cause of failure in our efforts to improve the education and usefulness of the profession, viz: the absence of a due sense of individual responsibility, and of a willingness to act up thereto, on the part of the great mass of medical practitioners.

It is a very easy matter for men to assemble in conventions and societies, and declare abstract truths in formal resolutions.

For instance, nothing is more easy than for anti-slavery men to meet and resolve that slavery is a great moral, social, and political evil. But to devise a practicable mode of doing it away, which shall be *just* to all parties, is a task defying the profoundest intellect, and the purest philanthropy.

So too, it is very easy for medical men to meet and declare in formal resolves, that the standard of education, both preliminary and medical, is *too low*—that the colleges ought to require this

and that. But so long as they not only feel no *individual* responsibility in the matter, but return to their homes and send directly from their own offices, young men to the colleges, who are grossly deficient in almost all the elementary branches of knowledge, they must not only expect to see their resolves unheeded, but they need feel no surprise if some wanton critic should liken them to the *lawyers* of old, who were accused of "*binding heavy burdens and placing them on other men's shoulders, while they, themselves, would not so much as touch them with one of their fingers.*" We have no apologies to offer for the many delinquencies of the colleges; but all the defects of the profession are, by no means, attributable to them. Neither can they be all removed by any action of these institutions. To effect this, the profession at large, and in their individual capacity, must not only resolve, but *act*; and that, too, under a proper sense of personal responsibility and influence.

1850.

THIRD ANNUAL MEETING, AT CINCINNATI.

IN our history of the annual meeting of the Association, in Boston, we noticed the following resolution, which was reported by a special committee, to whom had been referred all the propositions previously made on the subject of medical education, viz:—

Resolved, That the Association recommend to the various schools of medicine, to meet at Cincinnati before the next annual meeting of the Association."

The Special Committee who reported this resolution, consisted of Drs. Alexander H. Stevens, of New York; George B. Wood, of Philadelphia; and Jonathan Knight, of New Haven—three of the ablest and most experienced professors in the country.

The recommendations of the Association, in relation to the terms of college instruction, had not been received and acted on by the great majority of medical schools, and the foregoing resolution was evidently intended as a direct invitation, on the part of the Association, to the several colleges to hold a convention of their own, and by mutual action devise some measures for rendering their courses of instruction more perfect, and the general standard of medical attainments more elevated. Soon after the adjournment of the Association, in Boston, a few of the medical periodicals alluded to the proposition for a convention of delegates from the colleges exclusively, and in terms of decided commendation. But the colleges, generally, gave no response to the invitation, and consequently no separate convention was held

during the year. This direct refusal either to meet and devise measures of their own, or to adopt those already recommended by the Association, naturally led to the general belief that the great majority of those connected with the medical colleges were obstinately averse to any attempts to improve the present system of medical instruction.

The selection of Cincinnati, as the place for holding the annual meeting of the Association for 1850, gave a new and strong impulse to the work of social organization throughout the profession in the Western States. In several of them, State and county societies had been organized several years previous, but, in most instances, they had ceased to maintain an active existence. As the proposed meeting of the Association at Cincinnati was the first to be held in the West, the profession in that section of the Union naturally felt a strong desire to make it equal in numbers and interest to those which had been held in the Atlantic cities. A sufficient number of delegates to secure this, could only be obtained by reviving the old organizations, or establishing new ones, both in States and counties.

The delegates to the *third* anniversary meeting of the Association, assembled in "College Hall," Cincinnati, May 7, 1850, and were called to order at 10½ o'clock A. M., by the President, Dr. J. C. Warren, of Boston. Dr. Strader, of Cincinnati, chairman of the Committee of Arrangements, presented and read a list of the delegates who had registered their names. The number actually present during the session was about three hundred.

The proper business of the Association was commenced by a formal and interesting address from the President, Dr. Warren; after which a committee of one from each State represented, was appointed to recommend candidates for officers of the Association during the succeeding year. During the afternoon session, the reports of the Treasurer and Committee of Publication were presented and appropriately referred. The reports on Medical Educa-



Yours truly
R. L. Murphy

tion and Hygiene were also received. The latter was read in part by the Secretary, and referred to the Committee on Publication. The former was made the special order for consideration at the commencement of the next morning session. The Committee appointed to nominate officers, reported the following, viz :—

President.

REUBEN D. MUSSEY,¹ of Ohio.

Vice-Presidents.

J. B. JOHNSON, of Missouri. DANIEL BRAINARD, of Illinois.
A. LOPEZ, of Alabama. GEORGE W. NORRIS, of Penn.

Secretaries.

ALFRED STILLÉ, of Penn. H. W. DE SAUSSURE, of S. C.

Treasurer.

ISAAC HAYS, of Pennsylvania.

This report, so far as it related to the President, was not satisfactory to a large portion of the Association, and it elicited some discussion, in which Drs. Storer, of Boston; White, of Buffalo; Watson, of N. York; McNally, of Ohio; and Yandell, of Kentucky, participated. Many claimed that the office belonged to the late Daniel Drake, of Cincinnati. But under a call for the previous question, the report of the Committee was adopted, and the Association adjourned until 9 o'clock A. M.

On reassembling in the morning, Dr. Bowditch, of Boston, called the attention of the Association to the death of the late Professor J. P. Harrison, of Cincinnati, previously one of the Vice-Presidents, and offered a series of appropriate resolutions, which were unanimously adopted. Dr. Mussey, on being conducted to the chair, with the rest of the newly elected officers, rendered his acknowledgments for the honor conferred, in a brief and sensible address. After some other unimportant business,

¹ For Biographical Sketch of Dr. Mussey, see Appendix, E.

the *special order* of the day was called for, and Dr. T. W. Blatchford, of Troy, N. Y., presented the report on *Medical Education*, which was read by the Secretary, the chairman of the Committee being absent. The chairman of the Committee on Medical Education, and author of the report under consideration, was Dr. Joseph Roby, of Baltimore. The report was very brief, containing little else than a summary statement of what had been done by previous committees, and what had been advised by the Association in reference to the education of the profession.

It contained no new propositions, and recommended no additional action on the part of the Association. After some discussion, and the correction of one or two errors in relation to Colleges of Pharmacy, the report was referred to the Committee on Publication. Dr. T. W. Blatchford, of Troy, N. Y., then offered the following preamble and resolutions, at the same time expressing his decided disapprobation of the report last referred to:—

“WHEREAS, this Association has learned through its several committees appointed from year to year to examine into the state of medical education in our country, that many of the medical colleges invested by law with the power of granting degrees, still continue a system of instruction which we cannot but regard as defective, both in the time allotted to the delivery of lectures, in the attention paid to practical anatomy, in the facilities afforded for clinical instruction, and in the low standard of the requirements for a degree, therefore,

“*Resolved*, That this Association reiterates its former recommendations upon these points, and would urge upon the medical colleges to continue their efforts to elevate the standard of medical education, by adopting such changes in their courses of instruction as shall satisfy the reasonable and just desires of the profession.

“*Resolved*, That the thanks of the American Medical Association are due to the Faculties of the University of Pennsylvania, and of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York, and all other institutions which may have conformed to our recommenda-

tions, for their prompt response to the recommendations of the Association for the improvement of Medical Education."

These resolutions gave rise to a discussion which occupied the whole of the afternoon session. Early in the morning session the subject was again taken up, and on motion of Dr. J. R. Wood, of New York, the Association resolved itself into a committee of the whole, with Dr. Knight of Connecticut, in the chair. Another lengthy discussion took place, during which amendments were offered by Drs. Lawson and Drake, of Ohio; Dr. Gross, of Kentucky; and Dr. Theobald, of Maryland. Many members took part in the discussion, among whom were Drs. Annan, Miller and Gross, of Kentucky; Dr. McPheeters, of Mo.; Drs. Drake and Lawson, of Ohio; Drs. Parrish, Stillé and Morris, of Pa.; Dr. J. R. Wood, of New York; Dr. Lopez, of Alabama; and Dr. N. S. Davis, of Illinois. It all ended in the adoption of the following resolution, offered by Dr. Casper Morris, of Pa., as a substitute for all those previously offered by Drs. Blatchford and others, viz:—

"*Resolved*, That the recommendations of this Association at its former meetings, in regard to *Medical Education*, be reaffirmed, and that private preceptors be still urged to receive into their offices only those duly qualified by previous education to engage in the study of medicine."

The Committee of the Whole rose, reported this resolution to the Association, and it was adopted.

Closely allied to the subject of medical education, is that of medical *literature*. Dr. A. Stillé, of Philadelphia, chairman of the Standing Committee on that subject, presented and read a lengthy and very interesting report, which closed with the following resolutions, viz:—

"*Resolved*, That the Association regards the cultivation of medical literature as essential to professional improvement, and as

adapted to form one of the broadest lines of distinction between physicians and all pretenders to the name.

"Resolved, That in the opinion of this Association it is equally the duty and the interest of the profession to sustain its periodical literature, both by literary contributions and subscriptions.

"Resolved, That since literary excellence is best developed by literary studies, the formation of Medical Reading Clubs, after the plan set forth in this report, is urged especially upon physicians in places where the periodical and other medical publications of the day are not readily accessible upon other terms.

"Resolved, That the Standing Committee on Medical Literature be instructed to report to the Association, at its next meeting, what American medical work, published during the year of their service, in their judgment is the most valuable, and that with the consent of the Association such work shall be formally proclaimed by the President.

"Resolved, That State and local societies are hereby recommended to offer pecuniary rewards, or other distinction, for the best memoirs founded on original observations.

"Resolved, That medical colleges are hereby recommended to distinguish the best inaugural thesis of every year, by a public announcement of its subject and the name of its author, and by such other means as they may deem appropriate.

"Resolved, That the sum of one hundred dollars, raised by voluntary contribution, be offered, in the name of the Association, for the best experimental essay on a subject connected either with Physiology or Medical Chemistry, and that a committee of seven be appointed to carry out the objects of this resolution; said Committee to receive the competing memoirs until the first day of March, 1851, the authors' names to be concealed from the Committee, and the name of the successful competitor alone to be announced after the publication of the decision."

These resolutions were considered and adopted, and a committee appointed to receive and examine such essays as should be presented for the prize.

The measure recommended in the last resolution quoted above, has been carried out from year to year, and has proved of great

value to the profession, and the cause of several most important additions to our medical literature.

Besides the usual Standing Committee on Medical Literature, the Association, at its annual meeting in Boston, appointed a special committee, consisting of Drs. Horner, Condie, and Hays, of Philadelphia, "to consider the measure suggested in the report on Medical Literature for 1849." This Committee made a brief report, to which was appended the following resolution, viz:—

"Resolved, That, in the opinion of this Association, the only legitimate means within our reach for the encouragement and maintenance of a National Medical Literature, is to increase the standard of preliminary and professional education required of those who would enter the medical profession; to promote the circulation among the members of the profession of the medical journals of the day; to induce every practitioner to cultivate with care the fields of observation and research that are within his reach."

This resolution, together with the following offered by Dr. Gross, of Kentucky, was adopted by the Association without opposition:—

WHEREAS, the interests and the dignity of the medical profession of the United States, as well as the true spirit of patriotism and a love of independence, demand that we should use all proper and honorable means for the establishment of a National Medical Literature, and whereas, we have hitherto paid too blind and indiscriminate a deference and devotion to European authorities, and not sufficiently patronized and protected our own: therefore,

"Resolved, That this Association earnestly and respectfully recommend to the medical profession generally, and to the various medical schools in particular, the employment of native works as text-books for their pupils, instead of the productions of foreign writers.

"Resolved, That the editing of English works by American physicians has a tendency to repress native literary and scientific authorship, and ought, therefore, to be discouraged by all who have at heart the objects contemplated in this preamble.

“Resolved, That this Association will always hail with satisfaction the reprint, in their original and un mutilated form, of any meritorious works that may emanate from the British press.”

The reader will perceive that the subject of medical literature occupied a prominent place among the topics considered at this meeting of the Association; and the unanimous vote by which the resolutions offered by Dr. Gross were adopted, has had a visible influence on American writers and publishers; so much so, indeed, that most of the English works recently republished in this country have appeared without the name of an American editor on the title-page.

As a farther measure intended to encourage and sustain our national literature, the meeting at Boston appointed a special committee to prepare a memorial to Congress in favor of an *international copy-right law*. At the present meeting, Dr. G. B. Wood, of Philadelphia, chairman of said special committee, reported a memorial, which was adopted by the Association, ordered to be signed by its officers, and transmitted to Congress. This memorial contains the following elegant and truthful paragraph in relation to the nature and influence of a national literature of our own.

“There is another consideration of importance connected with this subject. Our institutions are peculiar, and, in order to be legitimately carried out, should not only be well understood by all concerned, but should be supported by habits of thinking and feeling in the community in full accordance with them.

“But how can this object be accomplished when the great mass of our literature is of foreign origin; when, of the books which tend to form the character and mould the opinions and mental habits of the reading classes, perhaps nine-tenths are the production of authors born and educated under a different political system, with predilections for manners adapted to other forms of society, and altogether unsuitable guides for the young minds of

this country. By allowing equal opportunities for the literary tendencies and genius of our population, considering the much larger proportion among us than in almost any other country, of those who are so far educated as to come within the capacity of literary effort, there can scarcely be a doubt that we shall soon exhibit the same relative progress, in the various branches of authorship, as in all other departments of human action and industry.

"Our literature will start forward at a rate that will probably astonish the world as much as our progress in the arts, in wealth, and in all the physical comforts of life. It will have the advantage, moreover, of conformity with our institutions. It will intertwine itself with the popular feelings, convictions, and habits, imparting to them consistency, strength, and durability, growing with their growth, at once giving and receiving support, and, above all other means, adorning, ennobling, and strengthening the national character."¹

These are just sentiments, and such as should be strongly impressed on the minds of the reading portion of the public. If the literature *produced* by a nation constitutes a true exponent of the national mind and character, so the literature actually read by a nation exerts an irresistible influence in moulding the national mind and shaping the national destiny. What is thus true of the nation as a whole, is equally true when applied to any one class or profession belonging thereto.

Besides the action of the Association in reference to medical education and literature, there were presented at this meeting interesting and detailed reports from the standing committees "On Medical Sciences," by Usher Parsons, M.D., of R. I.; "On Practical Medicine and Epidemics," by J. K. Mitchell, M.D., of Philadelphia; "On Surgery," by R. D. Mussey, M.D., of Cincin-

¹ See Transactions of American Medical Association, vol. iii. p. 215.

nati; "On Public Hygiene," by J. M. Smith, M.D., of New York; and several special reports on various topics of interest. All these are to be found in the volume of published *Transactions* for that year. The only paper read to the meeting of the Association in Cincinnati, founded on original physiological investigations, was a short one, by N. S. Davis, M.D., of Chicago, Illinois. It contained matter of sufficient importance to attract attention both in this country and in Europe. John Evans, M.D., of Chicago, also exhibited a new instrument designed as a substitute for the midwifery forceps, called the Obstetrical Extractor. He read a report of several cases illustrating its application and advantages.

These papers, together with one of greater length from Stephen W. Williams, M.D., formerly of Deerfield, Massachusetts, containing brief biographical sketches of a considerable number of American physicians who had died within the last few years, were published in the volume of *Transactions* in the form of an appendix.

Among the most important papers read at this meeting and published in the *Transactions*, are three from the Committee on Hygiene. One is from the chairman, Dr. Joseph M. Smith, of New York, "On the *Sources of Typhus Fever*, and the means suited to their extinction." He attempts to show that the fever arises, not from a specific contagion, but from *human excretions*, and enters into some elaborate examinations and estimates for determining the kinds and quantities of such as are specially concerned in its production.

The second paper is "On the Sanitary Condition of Massachusetts and New England," by Edward Jarvis, M.D., of Dorchester, Massachusetts.

The third is "On the Hygienic Characteristics of New Orleans," by J. C. Simonds, M.D.

With one trifling exception, the business of the meeting at Cincinnati was conducted with propriety and good feeling. The exception to which I allude was an attempt, on the part of one of

the delegates from Cincinnati, to bring before the Association a mere local and personal feud, for which he was speedily called to order. The unusual reluctance which was manifested by a portion of the members, to confirm the report of the Nominating Committee, making Dr. R. D. Mussey President of the Association, arose from no personal dislike to, or want of respect for Dr. M., but from their strong attachment to Dr. Drake. It was not because they loved Caesar less, but they loved *Rome more*.

The example first presented at the meeting of the Association in Boston, of setting apart one evening for a general entertainment provided by the local profession, was followed at Cincinnati, and was made the occasion of much social and intellectual enjoyment. The material bounties were provided in great abundance and variety, but without the prodigality of expenditure, and profusion of strong drink, which have since brought these social occasions into much discredit. This meeting was the occasion of bringing many eminent members of the profession from the Atlantic cities into the great Valley of the Mississippi for the first time in their lives. Many of them saw, for the first time, the almost boundless fields, and the broad green prairies of the West. To such it was a season of unusual interest and pleasure; affording a bright page in the brief records of human existence.

1851.

FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING, AT CHARLESTON.

DURING the year following the meeting of the Association in Cincinnati, no events occurred in connection with it worthy of special notice. The next annual meeting convened in Charleston, South Carolina, on the first Tuesday in May, 1851. The delegates assembled in St. Andrew's Hall, at 11 o'clock A. M., and the President, Dr. R. D. Mussey, of Cincinnati, took the chair.

Dr. Simons, chairman of a committee appointed by the South Carolina Medical Association, tendered to the delegates a cordial welcome to the hospitalities of their professional brethren, both in the city and State. Dr. Frost, chairman of the Committee of Arrangements, read the list of delegates who had registered their names. About two hundred and twenty were present during the meeting. The meeting at Charleston gave rise to one incident, not connected with any of those which had preceded it. The location was such, that a large proportion of the delegates from the Eastern, Middle, and Northwestern States, first collected together in New York and Philadelphia, and proceeded from thence to Charleston, by way of the Atlantic. To much the larger number, this was their first trip on the wide ocean, and long will they remember it. In the harbor of New York, between fifty and sixty delegates, from the North and East, met on board the steamer "Southerner," on Saturday afternoon, bound direct for Charleston. The afternoon had been pleasant, and as we dropped down quietly out of the bay, with its islands and

thousand ships, all on board was life, animation, and gayety. But before we were fairly out upon the ocean, the shades of evening had gathered around, and the signal for supper called our company to its first general meeting in the spacious dining saloon. On looking around the long table, I observed every seat full, and here too all was animation and enjoyment. In the company were mingled the old and the young, the grave and the gay. Conspicuous among the former were the venerable Drs. Tilden, of Ohio, Adams, of Boston, Goodyear and M'Intyre, of the interior of New York, whose whitened locks and unsteady steps betokened the influence and weight of years. Some of these had not only toiled for half a century in the profession, and seen the wilderness literally converted into cities around them, but they had followed the camp of our armies, on the northern frontier, during the war with Great Britain, and spent their best days in mitigating the evils of human slaughter. Among the latter, were the middle-aged, and younger members of the profession, once fairly released from the cares of the sick chamber, and beyond the reach of new calls for a week, at least. Nor was the company made up of sage doctors alone. For Dr. Mauran, of Providence, had in company his two daughters, and several others their *fair* companions, all of whom contributed to the social enjoyment of the occasion. As the evening stole away, one after another retired to their state-rooms and berths, apparently as quiet and secure as in their private dwellings among their own native hills. In the mean time, the good steamer had been urging its way out upon the bosom of the broad ocean. Soon, nearly all on board, except the ever toiling mariners, were wrapt in the embrace of sleep. But midnight comes, and what a change! The rain pours in torrents on the decks, the wind rattles every movable thing on board, the sailor treads heavily and hurriedly to and fro, while wave after wave breaks in torrents of spray around the ship, giving a mingling of sounds heard nowhere else, but on a lone ship tossed

upon the wild and boisterous waters. In the mean time, the swaying of the ship rocks the sleepers in their berths like the child in his cradle. But, alas! that rocking soon awakens a large proportion of our doctors, with feelings very much as though they had swallowed half of the ipecac in a respectable drug-shop. Long before the morning dawned, the heaving and groans of the sick were heard on every hand, mingling with the wild tumultuous elements around us; but the dawn of the morning brought no change. A storm had begun, which continued with little or no abatement until the following Monday night. During the whole of Sunday and Monday, the saloons and decks were alike lonely; the bountifully spread dining-table found few patrons; while the old and the young, the mothers and daughters, alike found abundant employment in the struggle to keep their stomachs in the place where nature designed them. Few, very few, of all our professional company escaped the dreaded *sea-sickness* during that storm. But among that favored few was the writer himself. Though never before fairly in sight of the broad ocean, and though feeling a cordial sympathy for the sick, yet being entirely exempt himself, it was a season of peculiar enjoyment.

In the brief intervals when the falling rain would cease, to take a station on the upper deck, partially sheltered from the spray, behind the upper part of the wheel-house, and then gaze above on the broad heavens, curtained with dark floating clouds, below on the boundless, rolling, roaring billows, crested with foam, and, every now and then, not only dashing their spray full over the top of the wheel-house, but high up on the smoke-pipes; the good ship, now pointing its bowsprit heavenward, and now sinking it even beneath the waves, while the steady stroke of the engine, guided by a single *human* hand, and urging its way hour after hour over the mighty mass of tumultuous waters; was to have the mind filled with conceptions of the sublime, the boundless, the

mighty, mingled with ideas of human progress and mechanical triumphs, which no language can express.

At length Tuesday morning came, and with it a new scene. At midnight the storm had ceased, and the winds lulled to a gentle breeze. The sun rose clear and brilliant as a meteor, darting his silvery rays over the surface of the wide waters, now moved only in ripples. To the quickened stroke of the engine had been added a broad sheet of canvas, to catch the force of the breeze, and our good ship was speeding like a bird over the waters; and one after another of the timid and sea-sick passengers came from their berths and state-rooms, to inhale once more the free, fresh air, and feast the eye on the beauty of a clear blue sky and a glowing sun.

In a very brief time the whole ship was as full of life, gayety, and social enjoyment as when she moved out of the harbor of New York, on the Saturday previous. But now the hour had come and gone, when we should have been landed in the capital of the Palmetto State, and been mingling with our professional brethren from the South. We had been so much retarded by the storm that we did not reach Charleston until six o'clock on Tuesday evening. Just before we entered the harbor, we passed the propeller from Philadelphia, on board of which was also a large number of delegates, who had been subjected to the same peril and delay as ourselves. All, however, arrived in safety, and though a little too late to participate in the business of organizing and choosing officers for the ensuing year, yet I trust all of us wiser and better for our voyage. Some reader may wish to know what all this has to do with a history of the American Medical Association? I answer, much, very much! For no one incident better illustrates the wisdom of that constitutional provision which requires the Association to meet successively in different sections of our widely extended Union. Impelled by the strong desire to attend each anniversary meeting, hundreds are

annually drawn from the narrow circle of home, with its sectional prejudices, and made to pass over geographical lines, through novel scenes, and amidst social relations, which break our prejudices, enlarge the field of mental vision, impress on the tablet of memory a thousand green spots, and weave continually new cords with which to strengthen the bonds of our great social and political union.

Immediately after the Association had been called to order in the morning, and the chairman of the Committee of Arrangements had presented the list of delegates, the President read a letter from Dr. Alfred Stillé, of Philadelphia, resigning the office of Secretary to the Association, which he had held ever since its first organization. Dr. Stillé had labored assiduously to advance the interests of the national organization, and was constrained to resign his post of active duty, only on account of feeble health, and a desire to spend some time abroad.

An election of officers then took place, in the usual manner, and resulted as follows, viz:—

President.

JAMES MOULTRIE,¹ South Carolina.

Vice-Presidents.

GEORGE HAYWARD, Mass.;	B. R. WELLFORD, Virginia;
R. D. ARNOLD, Georgia;	G. B. FLINT, Kentucky.

Secretaries.

H. W. DE SAUSSURE, S. C.; P. C. GOOCH, Virginia.

Treasurer.

ISAAC HAYS, Pennsylvania.

At the previous annual meeting of the Association, Dr. Daniel Drake, of Ohio, had proposed an amendment to the Constitution, in such a manner as to allow permanent members, who were not

¹ For Biographical Sketch of Dr. Moultrie, see Appendix F.



Jas. McCallister

MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Engraved by J. H. Smith, New York

delegates, the right to vote, and also to require members by *invitation* to be proposed in writing, signed by five members. On motion of Dr. Gaillard, of South Carolina, the proposition was taken up for consideration. It elicited considerable discussion, but was finally lost by a decided vote.

During the morning session of the second day, Dr. Isaac Hays, of Pennsylvania, presented the report of the Treasurer, and the chairman of the Committee on Publication, which was accepted, and the resolutions accompanying it adopted.

The report of the Standing Committee on Surgery was presented, and read by the chairman of the Committee, Dr. Paul F. Eve, of Georgia, and referred to the Committee on Publication.

Dr. A. Flint, of Buffalo, New York, sent his report from the Standing Committee on Practical Medicine, in printed form; and it was referred to the Committee on Publication, without having been read.

During the afternoon session, the Committee on Prize Essays presented their report, awarding the prize to Dr. John C. Dalton, Jr., of Boston, for the essay "On the Corpus Luteum of Menstruation and Pregnancy."

The report was accepted, and the essay referred to the Committee on Publication.

Dr. Storer, of Boston, chairman of the Committee on Obstetrics, read his report, which contained some statistics furnished by Dr. Ramsey, of Georgia. Some member or members from the latter State expressed doubts in reference to the correctness of these statistics. In consequence of this, Dr. Robertson, of South Carolina, moved that the report be recommitted to the Committee, with the privilege of altering the same, which motion was adopted. After consulting some of those members who were presumed to know something of the probable reliability of the author of the statistics, Dr. Storer thought best to erase them from the report. This being done, he re-presented the report,

which was accepted and referred to the Committee on Publication, in the same manner as all the other reports. This is the simple history of a transaction which subsequently called down upon the Association a great amount of scandal and reproach. It was immediately alleged, in certain quarters, that the objections to Dr. Ramsey's statistics were made to gratify personal malice; and that the Association had lent itself to a scheme devised for the purpose of destroying individual character.

The *Northern Lancet*, a monthly periodical published at Ogdensburg, New York, took the lead in denouncing the whole Association, in no measured terms. There was a reason for this, however. The Professor of Obstetrics in the New York University, whose clinics so frequently occupy the pages of the *Lancet*, was *the man* who, immediately after the organization of the first National Medical Convention, in New York City, moved that it adjourn *sine die*, without the transaction of any business. Hence, in making war on the Association, the *Northern Lancet* was only endeavoring to gratify his special friend in New York. Some of those conducting journals of respectability, however, also commented on this act of the Association, as one calculated to do an individual injustice.

But it is not easy to conceive how the Association, as a public assembly, could have acted more cautiously or more honorably. A report is made by a standing committee, containing a number of alleged facts, furnished by an absent individual, personally entirely unknown to nine-tenths of the members present. One or more, who are presumed to have some knowledge of the matter, object to their authenticity. What shall be done? It is impossible for the meeting, as a body, to institute an inquiry into the facts of the case, and hence no action can be taken directly on the part of the report which has been called in question. Hence there was but one proper course to be pursued, viz: to *re-commit* the whole report to the Committee from which it emanated,

with permission to make additional inquiries, and alter or amend it as should be deemed proper. In doing this, the Association certainly in nowise impeached the character of Dr. Ramsey, or decided on the merits of the matter he had furnished to the Committee. If any injustice was done him, it was the act of the Committee, and not of the Association. And there can be no doubt but that if Dr. Ramsey had spent half as much time in collecting such collateral evidence as would have fully sustained the correctness of his statements to the Committee, and re-presented them to the next succeeding meeting, as he did in maintaining a bitter personal controversy concerning the matter, he would have received full justice from the Association, and saved no little scandal to the profession. A similar remark is still more applicable to those who, like the editor of the *Northern Lancet*, seized greedily on the present occasion to denounce the Association, and impugn the motives of its members. Had they spent the same amount of time in attending the annual meetings, making the personal acquaintance of its members, and in honestly striving to increase its usefulness, they would have increased, in an equal ratio, their own enjoyment and the welfare of the profession.

During the third day of the session, the report from the Standing Committee on Medical Literature was presented and read by Dr. T. Reyburn, of Missouri, chairman of the Committee. The only resolution appended to the report was the following, viz:—

“*Resolved*, That a special committee be appointed, to take into consideration that portion of this report which refers to the organization of a society for the *reception and discussion of original scientific papers*; and that said Committee be, and is hereby instructed to present the details of a plan, if deemed by them expedient, for such a society or section, at the next annual meeting.”

Many members of the Association had felt at each annual meeting that too much time was taken up in discussing miscellaneous resolutions, chiefly relating to the education and ethics of

the profession, and in having lengthy reports from standing committees, thereby leaving no time for reading original papers, and discussing questions strictly scientific in their nature. The object of the resolution quoted, was to remedy this defect, by establishing a distinct *section* of the Association for that special purpose. The subject was referred, however, to a special committee, previously appointed, on the organization of the Association, consisting of Drs. Hays, of Pennsylvania, Stevens, of New York, Yardley, of Pennsylvania, Storer, of Massachusetts, and Jones, of North Carolina.

The Committee, in their report, recommended no action on the subject, in consequence of other important changes which were made in reference to the organization of committees.

At the meeting of the Association in Cincinnati, the subject of *Demonstrative Midwifery* was referred to the Standing Committee on Medical Education.

Dr. Worthington Hooker, of Connecticut, chairman of that Committee, read a report on that subject, which was not only referred to the Committee on Publication, but its sentiments were approved by a unanimous vote of the Association.

Dr. White, Professor of Obstetrics in the medical department of the University of Buffalo, had on one occasion introduced a female in *labor* before the graduating class in that institution, and so far exposed her, as to enable them to witness the termination of the labor. This was called *demonstrative* midwifery, and its propriety was much discussed both in and out of the profession. It was on this subject that the Committee on Medical Education was required to report. The general character of that report, which was so fully sanctioned by the Association, may be gathered from the following brief extract:—

“Granting all that can be claimed with any plausibility for the advantages mentioned, they are not of sufficient value to make it proper that woman in the hour of her extremity should be made

the subject of a public exhibition. But we not only object to the mode of instruction, adopted in the plan at Buffalo, as unnecessary, but we object to it, also, as being utterly *incompetent to give the student that knowledge which he needs in the practice of obstetrics*. It cannot take the place at all of what may properly be termed clinical instruction in midwifery. A single hasty examination by the touch in the course of the labor, and a *view* of the conclusion of the process, can supply the student with but a very small part of that practical knowledge which he needs when he comes to take charge of patients upon his own responsibility alone. This knowledge he can obtain effectually only by taking care of cases of midwifery during his pupilage under the supervision of his preceptor. A single case, thus managed, will teach him more than a multitude of such exposures as that which was made in the Buffalo Medical College, possibly could do."

At a subsequent stage of the session, Dr. W. Hooker presented the report of the Standing Committee on Medical Education.

The report was well written, and embraced much valuable knowledge, and, after having been read, it was accepted and referred to the Committee on Publication. The resolutions appended were also adopted, but they simply reaffirmed the action taken by the Association at its former meetings.

Dr. Bennet Dowler, of New Orleans, chairman of the Committee on Medical Sciences, presented the annual report through Dr. E. D. Fenner, and it was accepted, and referred to the usual committee.

Dr. Gaillard, of South Carolina, chairman of the Committee on Hygiene, presented a report which received the usual reference.

The report of the Standing Committee on Surgery was presented by Dr. Paul F. Eve, of Georgia, and was referred to the Committee on Publication. All these reports of standing committees, together with the Prize Essay of Dr. Dalton, may be

found in the fourth volume of the *Transactions* of the Association.

The last named paper is accompanied by well executed plates, and the whole makes a volume of six hundred and seventy-seven pages, well worthy of perusal by every member of the profession.

On the last day of the session, a paper styled "An Experimental Inquiry concerning some points connected with the Processes of Assimilation and Nutrition," was presented and read by Dr. N. S. Davis, of Illinois. This paper was read only a little before the hour of final adjournment, and seemed to attract but little attention, although it contained some analyses and experiments of value. It not being referred to the Committee on Publication, soon after the adjournment it made its appearance in the columns of the *Northwestern Medical and Surgical Journal*, published at Chicago, Illinois. Some of the experiments it contains have an important bearing on the commonly received doctrines in relation to the uses of the *fibrin* of the blood.

One of the most important acts of the present session was the adoption of an amendment to the Constitution of the Association, offered by Dr. Isaac Hays, at the annual meeting in 1849. The amendment reads as follows, viz:—

"*Resolved*, To strike out all that relates to Standing Committees on Medical Science, on Practical Medicine, on Surgery, on Obstetrics, on Medical Education, and on Medical Literature."

By this, all the standing committees provided for by the Association were abolished, except the Committees of Arrangements, and of Publication. The Association had evidently become somewhat wearied with the *lengthened abstracts* which had been annually presented by the Standing Committee in the form of reports. It was alleged that a copy of *Braithwaite's Retrospect* or of *Ranking's Abstract* would answer as well as these annual reports; and that such action should be taken as would efficiently encourage original investigations in relation to special topics of interest.

To accomplish this, Dr. G. B. Wood, of Pennsylvania, offered the following resolution, which was adopted, viz:—

“*Resolved*, That a committee of seven be appointed, to take into consideration the arrangement of committees for future action, and to report as soon as possible.”

The Committee consisted of Drs. G. B. Wood, of Pennsylvania, D. Drake, of Ohio, A. H. Stevens, of New York, W. Hooker, of Connecticut, Horatio Adams, of Massachusetts, B. R. Wellford, of Virginia, and S. H. Dickson, of South Carolina.

At a subsequent period of the session, Dr. Wood, the chairman of this Committee, presented a report, the chief recommendations of which are contained in the following extract, viz:—

“It appears to them that the most feasible plan of accomplishing the objects of the Association is, to select certain subjects, which may be considered as suitable for investigation, and to refer these subjects to special committees, to be appointed before the close of the present session, and to report to the next.”

This report also recommended the appointment of a Committee on Volunteer Communications, which should be authorized to award a prize of fifty dollars for each of the essays approved by it; not, however, exceeding five in number in one year. The report of the Committee was accepted, and its recommendations adopted by the Association.

This led to the appointment of *twenty-seven* special committees. Eight of these were instructed to report on the epidemics of different parts of the United States; and to each of the remaining *nineteen* was referred some special subject of importance on which they were to report at the next annual meeting. The Committee appointed to receive and examine Volunteer Communications, consisted of Drs. George Hayward, J. B. S. Jackson, D. H. Storer, and Jacob Bigelow, of Boston, and Dr. Usher Parsons, of Rhode Island.

This annual meeting was continued until the afternoon of

the fourth day. Besides the items of business, to which I have alluded in this brief sketch, many others of a miscellaneous character were introduced and acted upon. But throughout the entire session, the utmost harmony and good feeling prevailed among the members. The delegates were received, both by the profession and the citizens of Charleston, with the most cordial hospitality. Besides the generous hospitalities of individual members and citizens, the Medical Association of South Carolina provided, on the evening of the third day of the session, a splendid banquet, which afforded a pleasant season for social intercourse and festive enjoyment. The banqueting hall and tables were richly ornamented, and the latter loaded with every delicacy which the season and climate could afford. There, too, for the first time in the history of the Association, wines and strong drink were freely furnished as a part of the entertainment. Thus, a practice which commenced in Boston as a very simple and unostentatious collation, serving only as the occasion of a great and delightful social entertainment, became in Cincinnati a much more bountiful and costly public dinner, and, in Charleston, one still more elegant and costly, with the addition of those drinks which beguile the unwary, and "intoxicate the brain." In addition to all the other means of entertainment, an invitation was given, to make a steamboat excursion up the Ashley and Cooper Rivers, far enough to reach the rice plantations on their banks. This trip was peculiarly pleasant and instructive to the delegates from the Northern and Eastern States, and long will their memory of Charleston be associated with feelings of the liveliest pleasure. The Association formally adjourned on the afternoon of the fourth day; having previously fixed upon the city of Richmond, Va., as the place for the next annual meeting. Many delegates returned northward by the same steam-vessels that had brought them from New York and Philadelphia; and their homeward voyage was as pleasant and tranquil as the former one had been boisterous.

1852.

FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING, AT RICHMOND.

IN accordance with the action of the Association at Charleston, S. C., the delegates to the fifth annual meeting of the American Medical Association convened in Richmond, Virginia, on the 4th day of May, 1852,¹ the President, Dr. James Moultrie, of S. C., called the Assembly to order at 11 o'clock A. M.

The members in attendance were cordially welcomed to the hospitalities of the city and State, by Dr. James Beale, President of the Medical Society of Virginia; and after the usual preliminary proceedings, such as reading the list of delegates, whose names had been registered, the selection of one from each State to constitute a nominating committee, &c., the President delivered his annual address, and the following gentlemen were duly elected officers for the ensuing year, viz:—

President.

DR. BEVERLEY R. WELLFORD,² of Virginia.

Vice-Presidents.

DRS. JONATHAN KNIGHT, of Conn.; THOMAS Y. SIMONS, of S. C.,
JAMES W. THOMPSON, of Delaware; C. A. POPE, of Missouri.

Secretaries.

DRS. P. CLAIRBORNE GOOCH, of Va.; EDWARD L. BEADLE, of N. Y.

Treasurer.

DR. D. FRANCIS CONDIE, of Pennsylvania.

¹ In the volume of *Transactions* for the year 1852, the date of the meeting is erroneously stated to be the 26th of May.

² For Biographical Sketch of Dr. Wellford, see Appendix G.

Delegates were in attendance from the medical societies and institutions of twenty-four States; the whole number differing but little from the preceding meetings at Charleston and Cincinnati.

Two delegates, Drs. A. J. Semmes, and W. H. Berry, duly accredited as representatives from the American Medical Society in Paris, were admitted to membership by a vote of the Association. Early in the history of the Association, it was found that the reading of lengthy reports from all the standing committees engrossed so much time as to be wearisome to many of the members. Hence it soon came to be the practice, that a large portion of the reports and papers presented at the annual meetings were referred to the Committee on Publication, without being read or their contents known. At the commencement of the present annual meeting, the late Dr. Daniel Drake, of Cincinnati, made a strong effort to arrest this mode of proceeding. For this purpose he presented the following resolutions, viz:—

“*Resolved*, That every report on a medical or other scientific subject shall be referred to a select committee, to be read, analyzed, and reported on to the Association; said select committee indicating its general character and worthiness of publication, provided the authors of every report shall have the right of appealing to the Association.

“*Resolved*, That no report shall be read before the Association until it has been examined and reported on by the Committee to which it may be referred, nor then, excepting under an order of the Association.

“*Resolved*, That no report shall be published in the *Transactions of the Association* but in virtue of its order.

“*Resolved*, That all professional and other scientific communications made to the Association, shall be referred and treated like reports of committees.

“*Resolved*, That the President, Vice-Presidents, and Secretaries of the Association shall be charged with the appointment of the aforesaid committees, being themselves eligible to such appointment.

“*Resolved*, That the authors of all reports and papers aforesaid,

shall have the privilege of reading and explaining the same before the Committee."

These resolutions elicited considerable discussion, when, on motion of Dr. A. Lopez, of Alabama, their further consideration was indefinitely postponed. Though the plan here proposed by Dr. Drake may not be the best that could be devised, yet we fully agree with him that the present mode of receiving and referring papers and reports to the Committee on Publication, without any definite knowledge of their contents, is very unsatisfactory to all parties. This became so generally apparent, that, at a subsequent period of this annual meeting, the following resolution, offered by Dr. H. Green, of N. Y., was adopted without opposition, viz:—

"*Resolved*, That at the future meetings of this Association, all reports of committees, and all contributions on scientific subjects occupying more than ten pages of quarto-post manuscript, be accompanied each by an abstract or synopsis embracing the principal points of such report on paper, which abstract or synopsis shall be read before the Association."

On the afternoon of the first day of the session, Dr. Isaac Hays, read the reports of the Treasurer and the Committee on Publication, which were accepted and the resolutions appended thereto adopted. The report of the Committee on Prize Essays was also presented and read by Dr. Geo. Hayward, of Boston. The report states that sixteen communications had been received by the Committee, but that the award of one premium only had been recommended.

The essay which was deemed worthy of this distinction was entitled, *On the Variations of Pitch in Percussion and Respiratory Sounds, and their Application to Physical Diagnosis*, and the author was Dr. Austin Flint, of Buffalo, N. Y.

Dr. A. Clapp, of Indiana, chairman of the Committee on Indigenous Medical Botany, presented a lengthy report on the Medical Botany of the United States, which was accepted without reading, and referred to the Committee on Publication.

This, with the essay of Dr. Flint, may be found in the published volume of *Transactions* for 1852.

On the morning of the second day, the Secretary stated that copies of the resolutions adopted at a previous annual meeting, relative to an assimilated rank of the Medical Staff of the Army and Navy, had been forwarded to the proper departments, and its reception acknowledged by Dr. Harris, the chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery. Dr. Ninian Pinckney, of the U. S. Navy, read a memorial, which he had prepared to present to Congress, on the same subject. The memorial was approved by the Association, and the Secretary directed to communicate the fact to the Secretary of the Navy and the presiding officers of both Houses of Congress. Dr. Simons, of S. C., called the attention of the Association to the very important subject of emigration and the sickness on board of emigrant ships, resulting from crowding and uncleanness, and also to the fatal results which sometimes follow the introduction of the passengers of such ships into our cities and towns. He concluded by offering the following resolutions, which were adopted by the Association, viz:—

“*Resolved*, That the American Medical Association do memorialize Congress to require all vessels carrying steerage passengers on the sea to have a surgeon on board.

“*Resolved*, That a committee of this Association be appointed to draw up a memorial to Congress, making such suggestions as it may deem fit, as regards the importance of this measure.”

A communication was received from the New York Academy of Medicine, very decidedly condemning the practice of holding what are called *Clinics*, in the Medical Colleges. The communication was referred to the Committee on Publication, with directions to have it printed in the *Transactions*. An interesting paper on *The Action of Water on Lead Pipes, and the Diseases resulting from it*, by Dr. Horatio Adams, of Mass., was presented by Dr. Hayward, of Boston, and referred to the Committee on Publication.

A report on the *Blending and Conversion of the Types of Fever*, by S. H. Dickson, M. D., of S. C., was read to the Association and referred to the Committee on Publication. A report on *The Permanent Cure of Reducible Hernia*, by Dr. Hayward, of Mass., was also read and referred to the same Committee. Dr. C. A. Pope, of Mo., read a report from the Committee on *The Uses of Water in Surgery*, which was referred to the Committee on Publication.

The following reports were then presented, and with the exception of the first, read only by their *titles*, and referred to the Publishing Committee, viz:—

Report on the Epidemics of New England. By Dr. W. Hooker, of Conn.

On the Toxicological and Medicinal Properties of our Cryptogamic Plants. By F. P. Porcher, M. D., of S. C.

On the Epidemics of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland. By Dr. J. L. Atlee, of Pa.

On the Epidemics of South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and Alabama. By Dr. W. M. Boling, of Ala.; to which was appended a paper by Dr. D. J. Cain, of S. C.

On the Epidemics of Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, and Arkansas. By Dr. Ed. H. Barton, of La.

On the Epidemics of Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan. By Dr. Geo. Mendenhall, of Ohio.

On the Epidemics of Tennessee and Kentucky. By Dr. W. L. Sutton, of Ky.

All these reports and papers, except that "On the Toxicological and Medicinal Properties of our Cryptogamic Plants," may be found in the volume of *Transactions* for the year 1852; extending its size to 939 pages, and embodying a great amount of most valuable facts and observations, which should be in the possession of every practitioner in our country. The report on cryptogamic

plants was withdrawn by the author for the purpose of pursuing further investigations on the subject.

It will be recollected that the several "standing committees," originally provided for by the Constitution of the Association, were abolished at the annual meeting, in May, 1851, except those on Publication and Arrangements. At the present meeting, this action was so far reversed as to provide again Committees on Medical Literature and on Medical Education. The Committee appointed on the first subject consisted of Dr. René La Roche, of Pa, chairman; and of Drs. W. De Saussure, of S. C.; N. S. Davis, of Ill.; Jacob Bigelow, of Mass.; and Ed. H. Barton, of La. That on Medical Education consisted of Dr. Zina Pitcher, of Mich., chairman; and of Drs. Austin Flint, of N. Y.; J. R. W. Dunbar, of Md.; James McKeen, of Maine; and D. W. Yandell, of Ky. At the meeting of the Association in Charleston, when the standing committees were abolished, the whole Union was divided into districts, and a Committee on Epidemics appointed in each, with instructions to report at the present meeting. Only a small number of them reported, however; and some even of those were only partial communications. To give time for more complete investigations on this important subject, the following resolutions were proposed and adopted, viz:—

"Resolved, That the Committees on Epidemics be constituted, in relation to the division into *districts*, as they were last year, and that they be continued in service during a period of five years.

"Resolved, That the chairman appointed for each district shall have power to select associates, not exceeding four in number, to assist him in his labors.

"Resolved, That the several State Medical Societies be requested to use their influence to procure the appointment of sanitary commissions by the legislatures."

Dr. Daniel Drake, of Ohio, prepared and presented to the Association a paper "On the Influence of Climatic Changes on

Consumption," which was referred to a special committee for examination, without being read before the Association.

This Committee failed to meet; and although he was requested, by a vote of the Association, to furnish a copy of the paper for publication in the *Transactions*, yet so strong was his opposition to the mode of receiving papers and essays, and referring them for publication without reading or examination, that he refused to comply with the request.

Dr. J. L. Atlee, of Pennsylvania, offered the following preamble and resolution, which were unanimously adopted:—

"WHEREAS, it is the duty of patriotism to do homage to those who have been benefactors to their country; and whereas, the medical profession in the United States, heretofore not wanting in patriotic feeling or action, desire to co-operate with the other public bodies and institutions of the country in rendering their profound reverence to the memory of him who was "first in peace, first in war, and first in the hearts of his countrymen:

"*Be it therefore resolved*, That a committee of five be appointed, whose duty it shall be to solicit subscriptions from members of the American Medical Association, for the purpose of procuring a suitable stone, with an appropriate inscription, for insertion, in the name of this Association, into the national monument to the memory of WASHINGTON, now in progress of erection at Washington city."

The Committee appointed under this resolution consisted of Drs. J. L. Atlee, W. P. Johnston, R. W. Haxall, Alfred Stillé, and Gouverneur Emerson. The Committee so faithfully performed the duties assigned them, that a beautiful block of marble was obtained, and with a suitable inscription there was placed on it a device, representing Hippocrates, the father of medicine, refusing the rich bribes offered by the Persian king, Artaxerxes, to induce him to bestow his services on the enemies of his country.

The Committee on Nominations reported the names of chair-

men for *twenty-seven* committees on special subjects, which were to report at the next annual meeting. The report was accepted and adopted by the Association.

The subject which seemed to engross a large amount of attention at this meeting, and elicited more discussion than any other, was that of amending the *Constitution*. The question was first raised at the annual meeting in 1851, whether colleges of dentistry and pharmacy were entitled to a representation in the Association? and it was referred to a special committee, of which Dr. Isaac Hays was chairman, with directions to report at the next annual meeting. The Committee reported in favor of the following resolution, which was adopted:—

“*Resolved*, That colleges exclusively of dentistry and pharmacy are *not* recognized by this Association as among the bodies authorized to send delegates to its meetings.”

To the same special committee had been referred a communication from the Philadelphia County Medical Society, asking for certain amendments to the Constitution of the Association; and also a resolution, offered by Dr. Atlee, asking for the adoption of a more equable plan of representation than the one at present existing. On these topics, Dr. Hays, chairman of the Committee, reported in favor of so altering that section of the Constitution relating to members, as to restrict each State society, in States where county and district societies also exist, to *four* delegates for the whole society, instead of one for every *ten* of its members; and each medical college to *one* delegate instead of two. But the ratio of representation from the county and district societies, and such State societies as exist in States containing no county or district organizations, was to remain unaltered.

Dr. Yardley, a member of the same Committee, also made a report, recommending essentially the same changes in the ratio of representation, and in addition proposing to make “all the members of the medical profession who are attached to properly

organized county or district and State medical societies, throughout the United States," also members of the American Medical Association. On motion of Dr. F. Campbell Stewart, of N. Y., both these reports were referred to a committee of three, appointed by the President, with instructions to report, in definite and proper form, such amendments to the Constitution as will embrace the views set forth in said reports, and such other views as may appear to the Committee advisable.

On the third day of the session, Dr. Stewart, in behalf of this Committee, reported in favor of striking out so much of the present Constitution as is contained under Articles I. and II. and inserting in their stead the following, viz:—

ARTICLE I.—*Title of the Association.*

This institution shall be known and distinguished by the name and title of "the American Medical Association." *It shall be composed of all the members of the medical profession of the United States, of good standing, who acknowledge fealty and adhere to the code of ethics adopted by the Association; and its business shall be conducted by their delegates or representatives, who shall be appointed annually in the manner prescribed by this Constitution.*

ARTICLE II.—*Of Delegates.*

§ 1. The delegates to the meetings of the Association shall collectively represent and have cognizance of the common interests of the medical profession in every part of the United States, and shall hold their appointment from county, State and regularly chartered medical societies; from chartered medical colleges, hospitals, and permanent voluntary medical associations in good standing with the profession. Delegates may also be received from the medical staffs of the United States Army and Navy.

§ 2. Each delegate shall hold his appointment for one year, and until another is appointed to succeed him, and he shall be

entitled to participate in all the business affairs of the Association.

§ 3. The county, district, chartered and voluntary medical societies shall have the privilege of sending to the Association *one* delegate for every ten of its resident members, and one more for every additional fraction of more than one-half of this number.

§ 4. Every State society shall have the privilege of sending four delegates; and in those States in which county and district societies are not generally organized, in lieu of the privilege of sending four delegates, it shall be entitled to send one delegate for every ten of its regular members, and one more for every additional fraction of more than one-half of this number.

§ 5. No medical society shall have the privilege of representation, which does not require of its members an observance of the code of ethics of this Association.

§ 6. The faculty of every chartered medical college acknowledging its fealty to the code of ethics of this Association, shall have the privilege of sending one delegate to represent it in the Association: *Provided*, That the said faculty shall comprise six professors, and give one course of instruction annually, of not less than sixteen weeks, on Anatomy, Materia Medica, Theory and Practice of Medicine, Theory and Practice of Surgery, Midwifery and Chemistry: *And provided, also*, That the said faculty requires of its candidates for graduation, 1st, that they shall be twenty-one years of age; 2d, that they shall have studied three entire years, two of which must have been with some respectable practitioner; 3d, that they shall have attended two full courses of lectures (not, however, to be embraced in the same year), and one of which must have been in the institution granting the diploma, and also where students are required to continue their attendance on the lectures to the close of the session; and 4th, that they shall show by examination that they are qualified to practice medicine.

§ 7. The medical faculty of the University of Virginia shall be entitled to representation in the Association, notwithstanding that it has *not six professors*, and that it *does not require three years* of study for its pupils, but only so long as the present peculiar

system of instruction and examination practised by that institution shall continue in force.

§ 8. All hospitals, the medical officers of which are in good standing with the profession, and which have accommodations for one hundred patients, shall be entitled to send one delegate to the Association.

§ 9. Delegates representing the medical staffs of the United States Army and Navy, shall be appointed by the Army and Navy Medical Bureaux. The number of delegates so appointed shall be four from the army medical officers, and an equal number from the navy medical officers.

§ 10. No delegate shall be registered on the books of the Association, as representing more than one constituency.

§ 11. Every delegate elect, prior to the permanent organization of the annual meeting, and before voting on any question after the meeting has been organized, shall sign the Constitution and inscribe his name and address in full, with the title of the institution which he represents.

These propositions were discussed at considerable length by many members of the Association. The discussion took a wide range, including the whole subject of medical education, and was participated in by Drs. Mitchell and Huston, of the Jefferson Medical College, Dr. Horner, of the University of Pennsylvania, Drs. Davis and Rogers, of the University of Virginia, Dr. Frost, of the Medical College of S. C., Dr. Lopez, of Alabama, Drs. Stewart and Watson, of N. Y., Dr. W. Hooker, of Conn., and others.

The whole subject was finally disposed of by a vote accepting the several propositions, ordering them published in the *Transactions*, and recommending them to the Association, at its next session, as amendments to the Constitution.

Dr. J. B. Flint, of Ky., gave notice of a proposition to amend the *fifth* article of the Constitution, "so as to provide that, instead of the annual volume of *Transactions*, the Association may establish and maintain a quarterly journal, to be a medium for the

publication of its proceedings, and of the most valuable contributions of its members; an organ of resolute and impartial criticism, and an official exponent and advocate of the views of the Association on medical science, education, and ethics."

In accordance with a constitutional rule, the proposition was laid on the table until the next annual meeting.

On motion of Dr. J. L. Atlee, of Pa., the following resolution was adopted, viz:—

"*Resolved*, That this Association still recommends to the medical colleges the propriety of lengthening their terms of instruction."

After adopting the proposition of the Nominating Committee to hold the next annual meeting of the Association in the city of New York, and the usual complimentary resolutions to the officers, the Committee of Arrangements, &c. &c., the Association adjourned *sine die*, on the afternoon of the fourth day of the session.

This meeting of the Association, like those which had preceded it, afforded occasions for much social enjoyment. The members of the profession in Richmond, and the State generally, fully sustained the reputation of "old Virginia," for a most generous and noble hospitality. In addition to the numerous and elegant private entertainments, one evening was occupied with a sumptuous public dinner, and every effort was made by the local profession to render the meeting an exceedingly pleasant, as well as profitable one, to all who took part in it.

1853.

SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING, IN NEW YORK.

THE prominence given to the subject of constitutional amendments, in the meeting of the Association at Richmond, Va., was the means of attracting to it much attention on the part of the profession generally. Hence, we find it a frequent topic of discussion during the succeeding year, both in the medical periodicals and local societies. That the reader may understand more fully the merits of the subject, it is necessary to state that the Constitution of the Association provides for the admission of permanent members, of delegates from medical societies, colleges, and hospitals, and of members by invitation. The permanent members, however, consist of those who have served as delegates or who have been elected by a *unanimous* vote, and have not the privilege of voting in the meetings of the Association.

The members by *invitation* are, by the Constitution, composed only of such members of the profession as should attend the annual meetings from sections of the country "not otherwise represented at the meeting," and who should be recommended by one or more of the regular members of the Association, and their connection with the Association ceased with the adjournment of the annual meeting at which they were present. The plain and unmistakable intent of this clause of the Constitution, was simply to provide a way by which such members of the profession as should choose to attend the annual meetings from remote districts of country, from which no regular delegates had been appointed,

could be introduced, and permitted to take part in the proceedings of the Association.

At several of the meetings, however, it was made to cover the admission of members by *invitation* directly from the vicinity of the place of meeting, and from districts otherwise fully represented by delegates from medical societies, &c. These plain violations of the true intent of the constitutional provision, created much prejudice against the rule itself, and led to several attempts to amend, or expunge it altogether. Hence, in the propositions which were recommended for adoption, as amendments to the Constitution, at the meeting in Richmond, this provision was to be wholly omitted. If we remember, however, that there are still extensive regions of country, especially in the more recently settled States and territories, in which neither medical societies nor colleges exist, and yet from which a few reputable members of the profession might come to the annual meetings, we shall see good reasons why a provision should exist by which they could be made temporary members, and allowed to participate in the proceedings. The fault hitherto has not been in the rule, but in the *practice* under the rule. The great body of active members of the American Medical Association was designed by the Constitution to come under the second class named, *i. e.*, *delegates* from medical societies, colleges, and hospitals.

Each State, district, or county medical society, possessing a regular and permanent organization, was allowed to send *one delegate* for every *ten* of its resident members, and an additional delegate for a fraction of more than five members. Each regularly organized medical college was permitted to send *two* delegates, and each hospital containing one hundred beds for the sick was allowed two.

Such were, and still are, the constitutional provisions in relation to membership in the Association. It was manifest, in the meeting at Richmond, that two distinct parties sought to alter

these provisions. The first, represented by Dr. Hays, as chairman of the Special Committee appointed at the annual meeting in Charleston, simply objected to the inequality in the ratio of representation, and proposed to remedy it by restricting the number of delegates from each college and hospital to *one* annually, and from each *State* medical society, in States containing district and county societies, to *four* annually, while the ratio from local societies and associations should be unchanged. The second party, represented by Dr. Yardley, of Pa., who was a member of the same committee with Dr. Hays, not only objected to the present *ratio* of representation, but objected to *any* representation, except from county, district, and State societies. It was claimed, by this party, that the admission of delegates from colleges and hospitals not only led to an inequality in the ratio of representation, but recognized and perpetuated the unnecessary distinction between professors and laymen in the profession. Hence, they proposed, on the one hand, to strike out all provisions for the reception of delegates, except from county, district, and State medical societies; and, on the other, to make "all the members of the medical profession who are attached to properly organized county, or district, and State medical societies throughout the United States," nominally members of the Association. It will be remembered that, at the meeting in Richmond, the whole subject was again referred to a special committee, of which Dr. F. Campbell Stewart, of N. Y., was chairman. This Committee, in attempting to unite the views of both the parties named, reported the propositions which have already been quoted at length, and which were recommended for adoption at the annual meeting to be held in New York.

The objection urged against allowing each medical college with a faculty of only six or seven members, to send *two* delegates, while it requires *twenty* members of the profession, incorporated in a medical society to send an equal number, was so

plausible in itself that the whole series of proposed amendments seemed to meet with general favor. They were commended by some of the medical journals, and discussed and approved by several local societies in different sections of the Union. On the other hand, a few made decided opposition to their adoption. By such it was claimed that the adoption of the proposition to make all who are, or might become members of the local medical societies, members of the American Medical Association, would not only greatly lessen the importance and value of such membership, but would also "enable every brazen-faced pretender in medicine to arrogate to himself the title of MEMBER of the Amer. Med. Association." It was justly claimed that one of the important advantages derived from all social organizations in the profession, was the stimulus they afford to individual ambition or emulation. The desire to occupy an honorable position in the estimation of our fellows, is one of the most powerful incentives to individual industry and good conduct. If, to gain a membership in the great national organization, it is necessary to have local societies; and necessary that individuals should not only become members thereof, but members in such standing as to command the suffrages of their fellows, it constitutes a very strong inducement both to social organization and individual improvement. It was also claimed, that though the present ratio of representation was apparently unequal, yet practically no evils had resulted from such inequality, while there were many reasons against the proposed change. One of the leading articles which appeared during the year in opposition to the proposed amendments, was from the pen of Dr. N. S. Davis, of Chicago, and contained in the *Northwestern Medical and Surgical Journal*, for March, 1853.

In reference to the ratio of representation, Dr. Davis says:—

"At the organization of the Association, it was very generally thought to be an object of great importance to secure the active

and hearty co-operation of the medical colleges. The free intermingling annually of delegates from those institutions with others from the great mass of the profession, by which each would become more familiar with the wishes, embarrassments, and advantages of the other, was thought to be the most desirable and certain method of securing this important end. The framers of the Constitution, having much more reference to the accomplishment of a great object than to the attainment of a nice numerical *equality* in the ratio of representation, provided for the admission of *two* delegates from each college and hospital. Has anything occurred in the practical working of the provision that calls for a change? In casting a hasty glance over the list of delegates in attendance at each meeting of the Association since its formation, I find the ratio of representation to be substantially as follows, viz:—

Members enrolled as Delegates in	1847.	1848.	1849.	1850.	1851.	1852.
From Societies	178	208	375	208	182	226
From Medical Colleges . . .	59	45	51	34	30	39
From Hospitals	2	24	20	13	10	9
Total average from Medical Societies during six years . .						230
“ “ “ Colleges “ “ “ . .						42
“ “ “ Hospitals “ “ “ . .						13

“Certainly these figures furnish no evidence that medical schools have hitherto been too largely represented, the actual average number in attendance having scarcely exceeded *one* for each school in the Union. Hence, if they are allowed any representation, the benefits to result from reducing their ratio are not very apparent.”

Nothing could demonstrate more clearly the practical inutility of making any reduction in the ratio of representation from the colleges than the above figures. In regard to the proposition to impose certain conditions on the colleges, to be complied with

before being entitled to any representation, the same writer remarks as follows, viz:—

“These conditions are all right enough in themselves, but entirely out of place in the *Constitution* of a great national association. They constitute unnecessary details that almost inevitably involve the Association in the most glaring inconsistencies. Indeed, the very next section of this same proposed amendment affords a striking instance of such inconsistency. In this, to avoid the awkward necessity of excluding the University of Virginia, the Association is constrained, by the terms of the amendment, to acknowledge that, under some circumstances, neither *six* professors, nor *three* years' study, nor *two* courses of lectures, are necessary; and that, too, after the annually reiterated recommendation of *longer* college terms, *longer* periods of study, a *greater* number of courses of lectures, and *seven* professors. It seems to me that all this talk and hair-splitting nicety about constitutional provisions, for an association organized for the purpose of elevating and advancing the condition of one of the most learned and beneficent professions that exist in human society, involves an unnecessary waste of most valuable time; and is far better calculated to engender jealousies and divisions than to foster that spirit of liberal friendship and noble zeal for the advancement of our science, which should extend their genial influences to the remotest corners of our country.

“While I admit that the present constitutional ratio of representation is *theoretically* unequal, yet it certainly has not, thus far, developed in practice any important abuses; and hence, instead of risking the harmony of diverse interests and feelings by constant attempts at more nice constitutional adjustments, every effort should be made to cultivate a broader liberality, a freer communion of those representing all legitimate interests, and a more patient, diffusive, and energetic spirit of scientific research.

And I am fully convinced that these important objects would be more speedily and certainly accomplished, if the Association would appoint fewer committees, exact more prompt and carefully digested reports, and induce all its members to come up to the annual meetings, prepared, in the true spirit of candor and liberality, to examine every report and paper presented, for the purpose of adding whatever of interest their own experience and observation had furnished in relation thereto. Such a course, pursued in such a spirit, would not only carry the Association onward through a long career of prosperity and usefulness, but would give to all its general recommendations, in relation to medical education and literature, greatly increased effect."

It is evident, from the discussions which took place during the meeting of the Association at Richmond and subsequently, that many members had failed to perceive clearly the true relations of the Association to the profession, or the objects of its Constitution. They seemed to look upon the national organization in the same light as a representative civil government, whose acts were laws of binding import, and whose basis of representation must consequently be adjusted with the same nice care to the equality of diverse or separate interests. It seemed to be forgotten that the Association was entirely a voluntary organization, the acts of which carried with them no other force than the inherent justice of the acts themselves, coupled with the *moral* weight of the body from which they emanated; and that this *moral* weight would bear a close relation to the fulness of representation from those institutions whose interests were most involved in the movements proposed. Previous to the organization of the Association, there was no common ground on which the various interests of the profession could meet and devise measures in concert. Medical colleges had multiplied with great rapidity; State and district societies existed in only a small number of States; the standard of education, both preliminary

and medical, was almost universally acknowledged to be too low, and yet the institutions of each State claimed to be equal with those of every other, and deemed it imprudent to take a step in advance. The great leading object of those who originated the movement for a national organization, and of those who framed the Constitution, was to bring the representatives of all the legitimate interests of the profession together, to establish a point of contact where mind should act directly on mind, and concentrate a power sufficient to counteract the repelling influences of sectional prejudices and the rivalry of individual institutions. Hence, instead of aiming at a close *equality* in the ratio of representation, they sought carefully for such provisions as would produce, on the one hand, the most full and free intermingling of representatives from all the regularly organized social and educational institutions in the profession; and on the other, foster in the highest degree the spirit of scientific and professional improvement. How far they were successful the sequel will show.

The delegates to the sixth annual meeting of the Association assembled in the Presbyterian Church, in Bleecker Street, New York city, at 11½ o'clock A. M., of May 3, 1853. They were welcomed in a very appropriate congratulatory address by Dr. F. Campbell Stewart, chairman of the Committee of Arrangements. The Secretary read the list of delegates, so far as the names had been reported and registered, after which a committee of one from each State represented, was appointed to nominate officers for the ensuing year.

The number of delegates in attendance was unusually large. While the Committee for nominating officers were deliberating on their choice, Dr. Condie, of Pennsylvania, chairman of the Committee on Publications, submitted his annual report, together with that of the Treasurer. They were accepted, and the Committee authorized to furnish the chairmen of Committees on Epidemics with extra copies of their reports, at the expense of

the Association; and also to send a full set of the *Transactions* of the Association to the American Medical Society in Paris. Dr. Marshall Hall, of London, being present, he was invited to take a seat on the platform with the officers. The annual address was now delivered by the President, Dr. Beverley R. Wellford, of Virginia.

The address reviewed fully and ably the origin, progress, and benefits of the Association, with the objects which should still engage its attention. On motion of Dr. Hays, of Pennsylvania, the thanks of the Association were tendered to the President, and a copy of his address requested for publication in the *Transactions*. Dr. Joseph M. Smith, chairman of the Committee on Nominations, reported the following as suitable candidates for the several offices named:—

For President.

DR. JONATHAN KNIGHT,¹ of New Haven, Conn.

For Vice-Presidents.

Dr. USHER PARSONS, of R. I.; Dr. LEWIS CONDUCT, of N. J.
Dr. HENRY R. FROST, of S. C.; Dr. R. L. HOWARD, of Ohio.

For Secretaries.

Drs. EDWARD L. BEADLE, of N. Y. City; and EDWIN L.
LEMOINE, of Mo.

For Treasurer.

Dr. D. FRANCIS CONDIE, of Penn.

The Committee also reported in favor of holding the next annual meeting at St. Louis, Missouri.

The report of the Committee was adopted by the Association, and Dr. Knight, on being conducted to the chair, returned his thanks, in a short but very appropriate address.

The attentive reader will have noticed that, with only one exception, the selection of president of the Association had been

¹ For Biographical Sketch of Dr. Knight, see Appendix A.

made from the profession in the city in which the annual meeting was being held. This practice had been so long followed that it came to be regarded almost as an established law; and hence a large portion of the profession were confidently expecting the election of Dr. Valentine Mott.

The New York delegation in the Association, however, had presented to the Nominating Committee the name of Dr. John W. Francis.

There were some members of the Committee who denied both the justice and binding nature of the rule, which had been established merely by precedent. They claimed that its continuance would necessarily limit the highest honors of the Association to a favored few, who might chance to occupy a favorable place for an annual meeting, while all others would be excluded. The injustice of the rule and the absurdity of the principle on which it was established were illustrated by the circumstances then before the Committee. There were then in the meeting of the Association, men whose heads were silvered over with age, who were revered at home and abroad, and who had labored assiduously to promote the interests of the Association, travelling hundreds of miles to attend its annual meetings; and yet their residence was such that they must be excluded from all chance of promotion. On the other hand, neither of the gentlemen whose names were before the Committee, had ever taken a prominent or even active part in promoting the interests of the Association. While it was cheerfully conceded that they were both among the first and most deservedly eminent members of the profession in the whole Union, it was claimed that they had not only failed to manifest an active interest in the doings of the Association, but that Dr. Mott belonged to a college¹ whose faculty had sought, at the very outset, to defeat entirely the formation of a national organization. These circumstances,

¹ The Medical Department of the University of New York.

together with the fact that New York had already furnished one president of the Association, in the person of Dr. Alexander H. Stevens, who was elected at the meeting in Baltimore, induced the Committee to regard the present as a very favorable opportunity for repudiating the rule which precedent had thus far established. Hence the Committee united in the recommendation of Dr. Jonathan Knight, of New Haven, who had taken a most active and efficient part in organizing and sustaining the Association, with all its legitimate interests; and to whose age and high standing in the profession were added all the qualities of a most efficient presiding officer. During the progress of the annual session, a variety of resolutions were offered, some of which were discussed and adopted, but none of them possessed sufficient importance or general interest to require mention.

Interesting reports were presented from special committees, on the following subjects, viz:—

“On Acute and Chronic Diseases of the Neck of the Uterus,” by Dr. C. D. Meigs, of Philadelphia.

“On the Agency of the Refrigeration produced through Radiation of Heat as an Exciting Cause of Disease,” by Dr. G. Emerson, of Philadelphia.

“On the Causes and Pathology of Typhoid Fever,” by Dr. H. F. Campbell, of Georgia.

“On the Epidemics of Tennessee and Kentucky,” by Dr. Sutton, of Kentucky.

“On Diseases of the Hip-joint,” by Dr. Alden March, of Albany.

Dr. Gurdon Buck, of New York, read a paper on morbid growths within the larynx, and exhibited specimens to the Association. A report was also received from Dr. S. D. Gross, of Kentucky, on the results of surgical operations for the relief of malignant diseases. All these reports and papers were received and referred to the Committee on Publications, without being read in full before the Association. They may be found

in the volume of *Transactions* for 1853; and contain a great amount of matter of scientific interest and practical value.

The report of the Committee on Medical Education was presented and read at length, by the chairman, Dr. Z. Pitcher, of Detroit, Michigan. This report, like those which had been presented to the preceding annual meetings on the same subject, recommended a higher standard of preliminary and professional education, and longer terms of college instruction, and contained many valuable suggestions. It, however, contained two novel features: the first consisted in a detailed statement of the organization and course of instruction adopted by the medical department of the University of Michigan, thereby making the report a useful advertisement for that particular institution; and the second, in a labored attempt to depreciate the value of clinical instruction in hospitals.

To the report was appended the following resolutions, which were adopted by the Association, viz:—

“*Resolved*, That the Association reaffirms its formerly expressed opinions on the value and importance of general education to the student and practitioner of medicine, and that it would gladly enlarge its rule on this subject, so as to include the humanities of the schools, and the natural sciences.

“*Resolved*, That in the opinion of this Association, a familiar knowledge with the elements of medical science should precede clinical instruction.

“*Resolved*, That in order to accomplish the latter, the hospitals, when elevated to the rank of schools of practice, and the intelligent private preceptor, are the most efficient instrumentalities to be used for that purpose.”

The report from the Committee on Medical Literature was presented and read in full, by Dr. N. S. Davis, of Chicago, Ill. It contained a full review of the literature of the profession in the United States for the year preceding the first day of March, 1853. The writer not only claimed that we possess a national

medical literature of our own, but pointed out its characteristic features, with valuable suggestions in relation to its cultivation and improvement.

The whole number of medical periodicals published in the United States was reported to be twenty-eight; of which, four are issued quarterly; six bi-monthly; fifteen monthly; two semi-monthly; and one weekly. This, together with the report on Medical Education, may be found in Volume VI. of the *Transactions of the Association*.

Dr. Joseph M. Smith, chairman of the Committee on Volunteer Communications and Prize Essays, reported that fifteen essays had been received and examined by the Committee. Twelve of these were accompanied by sealed packets containing the names of the authors, and three contained the names of the authors in connection with the essays. The Committee awarded two prizes of \$100 each, to the authors of the following essays, viz:—

The Cell: its Physiology, Pathology, and Philosophy, as deduced from original investigations; to which is added its History and Criticism. By Walter J. Burnett, M. D. of Boston, Mass.

The Surgical Treatment of certain Fibrous Tumors of the Uterus, heretofore considered beyond the resources of art. By Washington L. Atlee, M. D., of Philadelphia, Pa.

These essays, with appropriate illustrations, are embodied in Volume VI. of the *Transactions* and occupy nearly 300 pages.

The whole volume of *Transactions* for 1853, contains 869 pages, and should certainly be in the library of every physician in the United States. The proposed amendments to the Constitution, which had occupied so much time during the meeting at Richmond, Va., and called forth some discussion in the medical journals, were called up for consideration on the third day of the session. On motion of Dr. A. H. Stevens, of New York, amended by Dr. Atkinson, of Virginia, their further consideration was indefinitely postponed, except the clause providing for the admis-

sion of delegates from the Medical Staffs of the United States Army and Navy, which was adopted.

The Committee on Nominations reported *twenty-five* special committees on scientific subjects, to report at the next annual meeting, and also the usual standing committees on Medical Literature, Medical Education, Volunteer and Prize Essays, Publication, and Arrangements. During the year preceding, three eminent members of the Association had departed this life, viz: Drs. Daniel Drake, of Cincinnati, Wm. E. Horner and Isaac Parrish, of Philadelphia. Concerning each of these, appropriate resolutions were adopted by the Association. During the session, invitations were liberally extended to the Association to visit freely the numerous important public and charitable institutions in New York and its vicinity; the most generous hospitality was also manifested by the members of the profession residing in the city; and neither time nor money was spared by them in their efforts to render the annual meeting a pleasant and profitable one to all. On the evening of the third day of the session, an entertainment was provided in Metropolitan Hall, which, for extent and luxurious magnificence, has probably never been equalled in our country. The number in attendance during the session was larger than on any previous anniversary occasion. "Thirty States and Territories, the District of Columbia, the Army and Navy of the United States, and the American Medical Society in Paris, were represented in the Association. There was one member, by invitation, from Syria, and one from Canada West. The whole number of members in attendance was 573, and the whole number of institutions represented, 170."

All the proper business of the Association was conducted in harmony and with great good feeling.

1854.

SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING, AT ST. LOUIS.

AT the close of the great Anniversary Meeting of the Association in New York, May 6th, 1853, a deep feeling of sadness was communicated to the whole profession, by the sudden death of *seven* members at Norwalk, Connecticut, on their way home from the meeting. The railroad train in which they were proceeding homeward, ran off an open drawbridge, at Norwalk, plunging with all its freight of human lives into deep water, where a large number of passengers immediately perished. Among the latter, were Abel L. Pierson, M. D., of Salem, Massachusetts; Archibald Welsh, M. D., of Hartford, Connecticut; Josiah Bartlett, M. D., of Stratham, New Hampshire; Samuel Beach, M. D., of Bridgeport, Connecticut; James M. Smith, M. D., and James H. Gray, M. D., of Springfield, Massachusetts; and Wm. C. Dwight, M. D., of Moscow, New York; all of whom were esteemed members of the Association. Soon after the facts in relation to this sad catastrophe were known, such members of the Association as yet remained in the city of New York, assembled and passed resolutions of respect for the dead, and appointed a committee, consisting of Drs. Joseph M. Smith, F. Campbell Stewart, J. W. G. Clements, Wm. Rockwell, Isaac E. Taylor, Edward L. Beadle, and John Watson, "to devise some suitable method of commemorating the event, and the worth and professional character" of those who had been thus suddenly cut off; and to report the same to the next annual meeting of the Associa-

tion. At the succeeding annual meeting of the Association, this committee recommended that a narrative of the event, together with a brief biographical sketch of each individual, should be prepared and published in the *Transactions*. This recommendation was approved by the Association, and the Biographical Sketches were prepared, and may be found in the VII. volume of the *published Transactions*.

The long pending propositions for amending the Constitution of the Association having been disposed of at the annual meeting in New York, there was no subject particularly affecting the national organization, which was discussed during the year.

The annual address of the President, Dr. Wellford, had again called the attention of the profession very strongly to the defective character of the preliminary education of those who engage in the study of medicine, and had induced some State and local societies to take action in reference to it. At the meeting of the Medical Society of Virginia, held in April, 1854, the following resolution was discussed and unanimously adopted, viz:—

“*Resolved*, That the members of the Society now present, do hereby pledge themselves to each other, that they will not receive under their instruction, as students of medicine, any individual who is grossly deficient in either mental or moral endowments, or in that preliminary education which is necessary to fit him for entering a profession requiring high intellectual and moral qualifications; and that we respectfully and earnestly recommend to our brethren throughout the State to adopt a similar rule of action.”

As the next annual meeting of the Association was to be held in St. Louis, Missouri, the profession throughout the Western and Northwestern States was prompted to increase and extend its social organizations, and thereby to advance in an equal ratio all its educational interests.

The delegates and members of the Association attending the Seventh Anniversary Meeting at St. Louis, assembled in Veran-

dah Hall, at 11 o'clock A. M., and were called to order by the senior Vice-President, Dr. Usher Parsons, of Rhode Island; the President, Dr. Jonathan Knight, of Connecticut, being absent. The local Secretary, Dr. E. S. Lemoine, of St. Louis, read letters from Dr. Knight, the President, and Dr. Edward L. Beadle, the senior Secretary, explaining their absence and expressing their continued and deep interest in the prosperity of the Association. Dr. J. R. Washington, of St. Louis, chairman of the Committee of Arrangements, in behalf of the profession of the city of St. Louis, and the State of Missouri, very cordially welcomed the delegates and members of the Association; and read the list of those in attendance so far as they had been registered.

The Vice-President, Dr. Parsons, responded to the remarks of Dr. Washington, in behalf of the Association, and announced that the meeting was duly organized for the transaction of business. The remainder of the morning session was occupied in the appointment of a Nominating Committee, consisting of one from each State represented; the hearing of the report of the Treasurer and Committee of Publication; and the reception of invitations to hold the next annual meeting in Philadelphia, and Detroit. During the afternoon session, communications were received from Dr. J. G. Adams, of New York, in relation to a presentation of the *Transactions* of the Association to the Imperial Academy of Medicine at Paris; from the New Hampshire Medical Society, in relation to the propriety of admitting delegates to the Association from societies which number among its members persons who adopt and practise some one of the forms of empiricism; and from Dr. Mellvaine, of Ohio, in reference to the organization of the American Medical Society of Paris, and accompanied by a memorial in reference to the system of Medical Education in the United States. On motion of Dr. S. D. Gross, of Ky., the following resolution was adopted by an almost unanimous vote, viz:—

“*Resolved*, That it be recommended to all future Committees

of Arrangement of this Association, that they dispense with costly and extravagant entertainments."

Dr. Gross also proposed the following amendment to the Constitution, which was laid on the table until the next annual meeting of the Association, according to the rule governing constitutional amendments.

" *Whereas*, It is of great importance to the harmony and good feeling of this Association, that its presiding officer should be fully acquainted with parliamentary usages, and the mode of presiding over deliberative assemblies, therefore,

" *Resolved*, That that part of the Constitution which relates to the election of officers be so amended as that the election shall take place immediately before the adjournment of each meeting, instead of immediately after its commencement."

Dr. J. P. White, of Buffalo, chairman of the Committee on Nominations, reported the following, viz:—

For President.

CHARLES A. POPE, of Missouri.

Vice-Presidents.

E. D. FENNER, of Louisiana; N. S. DAVIS, of Illinois;
WILLIAM WRAGG, of South Carolina; JOHN GREEN, of Mass.

Secretaries.

E. S. LEMOINE, of St. Louis, Mo.; FRANCIS WEST, of Phila., Pa.

Treasurer.

D. FRANCIS CONDIE, of Philadelphia, Pa.

The report of the Committee was accepted, and the officers proposed unanimously elected. The city of Philadelphia was also selected as the place for holding the next annual meeting of the Association. At a former annual meeting, a committee had been appointed to procure a stone with a suitable inscription for the monument to the memory of Washington. Dr. John L. Atlee, of Pa., chairman of this Committee, reported "that he had adopted, at the



Chas. F. Pope,

PROFESSOR OF THE PRINCIPLES & PRACTICE OF SURGERY &
IN THE MEDICAL DEPT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ST LOUIS

Engraved expressly for the New Jersey Medical Reporter

suggestion of the lamented Dr. Pierson, of Salem, the design for the stone, representing Hippocrates refusing the presents of the ambassadors of King Artaxerxes, who invited him to go to Persia and succor the enemies of Greece. The sculpture, which is upon Vermont marble, was wrought by Mr. Samuel Beck, a young artist of Lancaster Co., Pennsylvania." Dr. Atlee presented to the Association daguerreotype copies of both the picture and the sculpture, and solicited further contributions from members; about four hundred dollars more being required to complete the work. On the morning of the second day, the reports of committees being in order, the following were received, and referred to the Committee on Publication, only abstracts of the same being read to the Association.

On Epidemic Erysipelas. By R. S. Holmes, M. D., of St. Louis.

On The Epidemics of South Carolina, Florida, Georgia, and Alabama. By D. J. Cain, M. D., of Charleston, S. C.

On The Epidemics of Tennessee and Kentucky. By W. L. Sutton, M. D., of Georgetown, Ky.

On The Epidemics of Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan. By George Mendenhall, of Cincinnati.

On The History of the Yellow Fever in New Orleans, in the summer of 1853, and on Cholera. By E. D. Fenner, M. D., of New Orleans.

On Medical Education. By J. L. Cabell, of Virginia.

Dr. C. A. Pope, chairman of the Committee on Prize Essays and Volunteer Communications, reported that nine essays had been submitted to the examination of the Committee; but they had awarded only one prize. The essay thus honored, was entitled *An Essay on a New Method of Treating Ununited Fractures, and Certain Deformities of the Osseous System*, and its author was Daniel Brainard, M. D., of Chicago, Illinois.

The Committee on Nominations reported the names of thirty-seven committees, on a great variety of subjects, to report at the next annual meeting of the Association; and also the usual standing

Committees on Medical Literature, Medical Education, Prize Essays, Arrangements, and Publication. The report was accepted, and unanimously adopted, except that part of it which related to the appointment of a Committee on Publication. Since the first organization of the Association, the majority of the Committee on Publication had been located in Philadelphia, and the printing of the *Transactions* had been done in that city.

But the Nominating Committee had, in their report, recommended the selection of a chairman with the majority of the members of that Committee, from members of the Association residing in New York. This recommendation was strenuously objected to, on the singular pretence that the change of location would be an implied censure on the former Committee on Publication; and it consequently led to a protracted and warm discussion, during which the action of the Nominating Committee, together with the principle that *all* the committees of the Association are subject to the utmost freedom of change annually, was sustained by Drs. Sayre, of New York; Eve, of Georgia; Breckenridge, of Kentucky; Davis, of Illinois, and others; and opposed by Drs. Storer, of Boston; Reyburn, of Missouri; and Atlee, of Pennsylvania.

After various efforts to amend, the original report, recommending a majority of the Committee on Publication to be selected from New York, was adopted by a large majority.

The following resolution was then unanimously adopted:—

“Resolved, That a vote of thanks be returned to the late Publication Committee, for their best endeavors to serve the American Medical Association.”

The resignation of Dr. D. F. Condie, of Philadelphia, as Treasurer of the Association was presented, and Dr. Isaac Wood, of New York, was appointed in his place.

Among the many resolutions proposed, discussed, and acted

upon during the several daily meetings of the Association, were the following, viz:—

“Resolved, That, hereafter, the majority of the Committee on Publication shall be selected from the physicians of that city in which this Association may hold its annual session.”

This was offered by Dr. Breckenridge, of Ky., and adopted.

“Resolved, That, hereafter, every paper received by this Association, and ordered to be published, and all plates or other means of illustration, shall be considered the exclusive property of the Association, and shall be published and sold for the exclusive benefit of the Association.”

“Resolved, That this Association earnestly recommend to their medical brethren, in those States in which societies do not exist, the immediate organization of State and county medical societies.”

“Resolved, That a committee of one be appointed by the Chair, to inquire into the causes which obstruct the formation and establishment of our national medical literature, and to report on the subject at the next annual meeting of this Association, or as soon thereafter as practicable.”

The Chair appointed Dr. S. D. Gross, of Ky., said committee.

“Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed by the Chair, to report, at the next meeting of the Association, the best means of preventing the introduction of disease, by emigrants, into our country.”

The Committee appointed, consists of Drs. S. H. Dickson, of Charleston; J. H. Griscom, of New York; and E. D. Fenner, of New Orleans.

The annual meeting at St. Louis, though not attended by as large a number of delegates as the one that preceded it in New York, was nevertheless well attended, and productive of much pleasure and profit. The local profession of St. Louis, spared nothing to render the stay of the members of the Association as pleasant as possible. Besides providing a most elegant and sumptuous general entertainment on the evening of the third

day of the session, the most pleasant social interviews were held at the private residences of several of the most distinguished physicians each evening, and also at the residences of ex-Mayor Kennett and Col. O'Fallen. Invitations were extended to visit all the public institutions, colleges, &c., and to make a free excursion on the Pacific Railroad. The latter invitation was accepted by a part of the members, with their ladies, whose enjoyment on the occasion will not soon be forgotten. The annual meeting was closed after adopting the usual complimentary resolutions, on the evening of the third day of the session. And here we must close, for the present, our history of an institution, which, in its origin, objects, and general career, has no parallel in Christendom. But we should not feel satisfied with our task, without adding a few pages by way of comment on the facts of the past, and the prospects of the future.

CONCLUDING REMARKS.

To judge correctly of the success or failure of any given enterprise, requires that we know the real objects to be attained, and the methods proposed for their accomplishment. It requires but a very cursory examination of the subject, to show that the great leading object, the fundamental idea, which impelled the formation of our great national organization, was the improvement of our system of *Medical Education*, and consequently, the elevation of the whole profession. Hence the Special Committee appointed in 1849, on the subject of lengthening the college terms, in speaking of our professional education, very justly remarks: "That it (the Association) stands in some measure pledged to accomplish a reform in the *Medical Education* of the country. Should it pass by, or fail to render effective this leading idea of the profession, it will have neglected a *chief object of its institution*, and will disappoint the just expectations of its founders."

With the mind fixed on this leading object, and impatient for its accomplishment, not a few have already declared the Association a failure. Thus, Dr. D. M. Reese, editor of the *American Medical Gazette*, in his April number, holds the following language: "The near approach of the Annual Convention of the American Medical Association, to be held in Philadelphia in May next, is heralded by the journals of the country, in numerous articles, editorial and otherwise, in relation to the great reforms in medical education, which was '*the original and grand finality*' contemplated in the foundation of the Association."

"The conviction appears to be general, among writers, that notwithstanding the numerous reforms attempted, recommended, and resolved on, by repeated '*whereases*,' and reiterated at every successive meeting by high-sounding resolutions, and published in each volume of the *Transactions*, yet, in *effectuating any one of these, after seven years' trial, the efforts of the Association in this regard have resulted in signal and utter failure.*"

Dr. Bennett Dowler, of New Orleans, gives utterance, in the *New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal*, to sentiments of similar import. After carefully tracing the history of the Association, I am constrained to regard these announcements of *failure* as premature, and indicative of but a partial comprehension of the work assigned to the Association, and of the means at its command for accomplishing it. Had the Association, at the beginning, been clothed with legislative authority and powers sufficient to enforce its enactments, so protracted a delay, in accomplishing its avowed purposes, would have furnished reasonable ground for declaring its institution a failure. But it must be borne in mind that our country is made up of more than thirty separate States; that the Association was, and is, not only destitute of legislative powers itself, but also without access to any one legislative body possessing authority to regulate the education and interests of the profession of the whole country. Hence, to accomplish the great and interesting work assigned to it, there was a necessity—

First: That the Association should unite the great body of its own members on some definite and feasible plan, for accomplishing its avowed work.

Second: That the means, instruments or agencies, should be provided for carrying the plan into effect.

It was a very great error to suppose the first step here indicated had been accomplished, when the Association had almost unanimously resolved that a certain *standard of preliminary educa-*

tion should be adopted; that the *lecture terms in the colleges should be lengthened*; and that a *higher standard* of qualifications should be exacted of candidates for the degree of Doctor of Medicine. These were simply general declarations, important, it is true, and necessary as indicating clearly the objects to be accomplished. But what was the plan devised for their accomplishment? How was the standard of preliminary education to be enforced? Who was to examine the student, and furnish him with the certificate of having attained to that standard? In lengthening the lecture terms of the colleges, was it for the purpose of simply subjecting the classes to a more protracted endurance of six lectures per day, given promiscuously to new beginners and advanced students, without any reference to the natural and necessary order of the several branches? or was it designed to divide the annual terms into subdivisions, giving fewer lectures per day, and allowing the branches to be so grouped that the classes could attend the more elementary, before being forced to hear the practical?

And who was to judge of the "higher standard" of qualifications for the degree? Were there to be independent boards of examiners? and if so, by whom were they to be appointed?

All these questions are necessarily involved in our first proposition. To furnish answers which will meet the cordial and active sanction of an Association whose annual meetings are constituted of from 250 to 500 members, drawn from sections of country from two to three thousand miles apart, is a work requiring both time and patience.

Various attempts have been made to furnish these answers in a satisfactory form. The most systematic of these is contained in the concluding chapter of a little volume, entitled the *History of Medical Education*, and published by Dr. N. S. Davis, in 1851. To insure proper attention to the subject of preliminary education, he proposed that each State, county, and town medical society or association should appoint a board of censors, to exa-

mine such young men as should propose to commence the study of medicine in their respective districts, and to give certificates to such as were found to possess the necessary preliminary qualifications; and that no physician should be considered as maintaining a good standing in the profession, who should receive a student into his office without such examination and certificate. A plan essentially the same was adopted by the Erie County Medical Society, subsequently sanctioned by the New York State Society, and recommended to the American Medical Association by the Committee on Medical Education, of which Dr. F. Campbell Stewart, of N. Y., was chairman in 1849. He proposed to lengthen the annual college term to nine or ten months, instead of six, and to divide it into three parts, with four courses of lectures assigned to each part, and so grouped together that students in the first year could attend *one part* of the term, in the second another *part*, and in the third year another, thereby completing the series.

By this arrangement, the student would be required to attend lectures and college instruction no longer in any one year than at present, but he would be compelled to pursue the study of the several branches in their natural consecutive order, with the mind concentrated on a smaller number at any one time, and with ample time to pursue dissections, microscopic examinations, and clinical instruction. To secure the enforcement of a higher standard of professional qualifications, he proposed that all final examinations for actual admission into the ranks of the profession, should be conducted exclusively by independent boards of examiners in each State, appointed chiefly by the State medical societies. Whoever has supposed that such a vast variety of mind as is annually assembled in the National Association, could be at once made to harmonize on all these details, certainly possessed but little knowledge of human nature. Still, in regard to this, much progress has been made. The leading principles have

been agreed upon, and universally acknowledged. The proper seed has been sown, and it is evident from the annual address of Dr. Wellford to the meeting in New York, the report of Dr. Cabell to the meeting in St. Louis, and still more from the recent comments in the medical periodicals of the country, that it has taken root, and is already springing up and progressing to maturity.

If the necessary *plans* were fully matured, however, and sanctioned in all their details, it would still be necessary to take the *second step indicated*, viz: to provide the means or agencies by which they could be executed. In the absence of all legislative aid, it is evident that the only instrumentalities on which reliance can be placed, are first, the moral and intellectual power or influence of the National Association; second, the various State and local societies; and third, the medical colleges. As instrumentalities for the accomplishment of the great end in view, the State and local societies stand pre-eminent. They constitute the basis of all our operations, and the only source from which can emanate those *censors* who are to secure the proper standards of both preliminary and professional education. Hence it is easy to perceive why the Association did not accomplish its avowed mission at once, or in the early part of its career. The very means or instrumentalities necessary for its accomplishment, were not in existence.

Time was required, not only for the Association to mature its plans, but also to effect the formation of those State and local organizations on which their execution must depend. And have its efforts in this direction proved a "signal and utter failure?" Let the facts answer. Previous to the organization of the National Association, State medical societies had been formed in about one-half of the States composing the Union. But a very large proportion of these had ceased to maintain an active existence. In examining the records, I find that only *seven* State

medical societies, and eleven local ones, were represented in the first National Convention held in New York in 1846. At Philadelphia, the succeeding year, the number of State societies represented was only sixteen, which embraced all those represented the previous year, and all that were then known to possess an active existence in the United States. The records of the last two annual meetings of the Association, one in New York and the other in St. Louis, show a representation from *twenty-six* State societies or associations, from the Society of Minnesota Territory, and the Cherokee Nation Society, and from more than 100 county, district, and town societies. Whoever will take the trouble to examine the condition of the profession at this moment, in relation to its social organizations, its literature, its spirit of investigation, and the condition of its schools, in comparison with its condition in all these respects at the period when the National Association was formed, will find neither evidences of failure nor discouragement.

On the contrary, he will see that it has been steadily diffusing its own spirit and principles of action into the whole profession; that it has not only promulgated its sentiments in repeated "*Whereases*" and "*wordly resolves*," but, like every other great movement based on truth and justice, and affecting large numbers, widely extended and diverse interests, and dependent on no *legislative* or coercive aid, it has steadily advanced in the maturing of its plans, the extension of its basis of operations, and the creation of the means and instrumentalities required for the practical development of its objects. The whole history of the human race shows that all great and true reforms, whether social, moral, or political, proceed slowly. The mushroom may spring up in the night, but it withers in the morning. Revolutions may take place in a day, but like the whirlwind, they will leave only desolation in their paths. It is no less true of the mental than of the organic physical world, that before good fruit can be obtained,

there must be a seed-time, a period of growth, of maturity, and of harvest. In the great work assigned to the American Medical Association, the seed-time is already past, the period of growth is far advanced, and it only requires that its members act the part of wise and faithful husbandmen, by diligently feeding its roots through the organization and perfection of State and local societies, and by training its branches in the right direction, through the development of detailed and practicable plans for carrying into operation the principles it has avowed, and its harvest of fruit will be speedy, perfect, and abundant. In the foregoing remarks, I have alluded only to the success of the Association in the accomplishment of its great fundamental object, viz: the improvement of the whole system of medical education in our country. In every other respect, it is conceded by all parties, that its success has been great, even beyond the expectations of its most sanguine friends. In this respect, Dr. B. Dowler speaks truly as well as eloquently of the Association, in the following paragraph from the *New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal* for January, 1855. He says: "As a social and professional *reunion* of kindred spirits and great minds, its memories afford perennial delight. It has given impetus to the progress of medical polity and science; it exercises moral suasion, rather than that of authority; it has brought together a bright constellation of intellect, cemented the bonds of friendship among good men and true, and should it fail to effectuate its original and grand finality—that is, a thorough reform in medical education—it will leave a luminous track of light in the moral firmament of the Æsculapian heavens, throughout the expansions of the Republic."

APPENDIX.

A P P E N D I X .

APPENDIX A.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF JONATHAN KNIGHT, M. D., PRESIDENT OF PRELIMINARY CONVENTION, AND SEVENTH PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

WE present to our readers the following brief history of Dr. Knight's professional career, and though brief, it is sufficient to mark the way of his life with distinguished usefulness. The urbanity of his deportment, and the remarkable judgment with which he has directed the councils of the American Medical Association, when acting as its President, have made him one of its most useful and popular members.

He was born in Norwalk, Conn., Sept. 4, 1789. His father, Dr. Jonathan Knight, after serving as surgeon's mate in the army of the Revolution, settled, and practised in that place for nearly fifty years; his mother was the daughter of Dr. Asahel Fitch, of Reading, Conn. He prepared for college under the tuition of Rev. Matthias Burnett, of Norwalk. Entered Yale College during the last term of Sophomore year, May, 1806; graduated Sept. 1808. At the commencement, gave the Latin Salutatory Address—taught school in Norwich and New London for two years after graduation. From Sept. 1810, was tutor in Yale College for one year; attended lectures in the University of Pennsylvania in 1811-12, and 1812-13—two courses. Was licensed to practice by the Connecticut Medical Society, Aug. 1811. Received the honorary degree of M. D. from Yale College, Sept. 1818. Commenced practice in New Haven, April, 1813. Was appointed Prof. of Anatomy and Physiology in the Medical

Institution of Yale College the same year—gave the first course of lectures during the winter of 1813-14, and continued them for 25 years. In 1838, was transferred to the department of Surgery, and in this continues. For about 20 years has also given a short course of lectures to the senior class of under graduates.

President of the Convention to form the American Medical Association which met in New York, May, 1846, and of the same in Philadelphia, May, 1847, until the organization of the society. President of the American Medical Association, May, 1853.

APPENDIX B.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF THE LATE NATHANIEL CHAPMAN, M.D.

[NOTE.—In preparing the following memoir, the author has taken great pains to obtain reliable facts from authentic sources, and he submits it to the public, confident in its general accuracy, and in the belief, too, that it is the most complete biographical memoir of Dr. Chapman that has ever been published. The facts are drawn principally from the following sources: 1. Memoranda politely furnished the author by different members of Dr. Chapman's immediate family. 2. From biographical notices of Dr. Chapman, drawn up by his nephew, John B. Biddle, M. D., from data furnished him by Dr. Chapman in his own handwriting, and published in the *Medical Examiner*, vol. 1, New Series, p. 322, 1842, and in the same work, vol. 9, New Series, p. 532, 1853. And 3. From "*A Discourse commemorative of Nathaniel Chapman, M. D., &c. &c.*, delivered before the Trustees, the Medical Faculty, and Students of the University of Pennsylvania, by Samuel Jackson, M. D., Professor of the Institutes of Medicine, October 13, 1854."]

DR. NATHANIEL CHAPMAN was the second son of George Chapman, Esq., of Virginia, and was born on the 28th of May, 1780,¹ at the family seat, Summer Hill, then in Fairfax County, on the bank of the Potomac River, about midway between the present site of Washington City and Alexandria, Virginia. His family was of an old and respectable English stock, his paternal ancestor, who came to Virginia with the first colony, having been a captain of cavalry in the British army, and the youngest son of a cousin-german of Sir Walter Raleigh. The family settled on the river Pomonkey, some twenty miles from Richmond; but the branch from which the subject of our memoir is descended migrated about a century and a half ago to Maryland, and fixed itself on an estate on the banks of the Potomac, nearly opposite Mount Vernon, which is still, we believe, in their possession. His father, how-

¹ This is according to Dr. Chapman's own memoranda, but his brother, S. F. Chapman, Esq., of Washington City, in a letter to the author, dates it two years earlier, May 28th, 1778—which is most probably correct.

ever, went to Virginia upon his marriage, where he afterwards remained. His mother, Amelia Macrae, was a daughter of Allan Macrae, of Scotch descent, who early settled in Dumfries, Virginia, and employed his time and capital in mercantile pursuits, and left a large estate to his children.

Very little is remembered of the earlier years of the doctor's life, except that in his very boyhood he manifested a fondness for books, and a taste for literature, and soon exhibited some decided poetical talents: for when but eight years of age, it was thought by his family that he had successfully imitated some of the early efforts of Pope, and paraphrased some of the odes of Horace. Dr. Chapman was early placed at school, and after receiving a common elementary education in the neighborhood of his father's residence, he entered the classical academy of Alexandria, founded by Washington, where he passed six years. He subsequently spent a short time in two colleges, though not long enough, as he has remarked, to owe either any obligation.

While yet quite young, he became a contributor over the signature "Falkland," to the pages of the *Portfolio*, a literary journal of high character, published in Philadelphia, and edited by the late accomplished and learned Joseph Dennie, Esq.

Dr. Chapman's medical education was commenced in the office of Dr. John Weems, of Georgetown, D. C., with whom he remained a year or more. Dr. Weems was a gentleman of great professional eminence, and a near relation of Dr. Chapman's family. His studies were continued with Dr. Dick, of Alexandria, whose name is not unknown in the annals of medicine. He went to Philadelphia in the autumn of 1797, where he became a private and favorite pupil of the late Dr. Benjamin Rush, and went through the regular course of study in the medical department of the University of Pennsylvania, where he graduated in 1801. The subject of his inaugural essay was *The Canine State of Fever*. It was written at the request of Dr. Rush, in answer to an attack upon his favorite theory of the pathology of that disease. Dr. Chapman had previously prepared another thesis on the *Sympathetic Connections of the Stomach with the rest of the Body*, which he afterwards read before the Philadelphia Medical Society. This contained the substance of his peculiar views on fever and other

diseases, as well as the *modus operandi* of medicines. Immediately after graduating, Dr. Chapman went to Europe to complete his medical studies.

He remained about three years abroad. The first year was spent in London, as a private pupil of the celebrated Abernethy. The University at Edinburgh, however, being the most celebrated of the British schools, he went thither, completed his studies, and took a degree. During his sojourn in Edinburgh, he became intimate with many of the eminent persons of those days, among whom may be mentioned Dugald Stewart, the Earl of Buchan, and Mr. (afterwards Lord Chancellor) Brougham, then a fellow-student. Although Brougham was then quite young, Chapman perceived in him the elements of greatness, and in a biographical sketch of him, published in 1809, he predicted his future eminence.

Before his departure from Edinburgh, Lord Buchan gave him a public breakfast on the birthday of Washington, at which a number of distinguished persons were present, when he took occasion to intrust him with an interesting relic, valuable from a double historical association. Lord Buchan had presented to General Washington a box, made of the oak that sheltered Sir William Wallace, after the battle of Falkirk, with a request to "pass it, in the event of his decease, to the man in his country who should appear to merit it best." General Washington, declining so invidious a designation, returned it by will to the earl, who committed it to Dr. Chapman, to be delivered to Dr. Rush, with a view to its being ultimately placed in the cabinet of the college at Washington, to which General Washington had bequeathed a large sum.

It was the intention of Dr. Chapman to have spent a longer time abroad, and to have visited some of the continental seats of medical learning. But the unsettled state of affairs existing in Europe, and the earnest solicitations of a friend who desired his company home, induced him to return earlier than he expected.

On his return to this country, his former preceptor, Dr. Weems, proposed to him to enter into partnership with him in the practice of medicine at Alexandria; but thinking that Philadelphia offered the best chances for success, he concluded to settle in that city.

It was in 1804 that he began his career as a practitioner in Philadelphia. His attractive manners, and reputation for talent, secured his almost immediate success in practice. He became the favorite physician of a large portion of the higher classes in that city, a position he continued to occupy as long as he remained in active practice.

The same year, he also began his career as a teacher, by giving a private course on obstetrics, which proved to be very popular.

In 1808, Dr. Chapman formed a matrimonial connection with Rebecca Biddle, daughter of Col. Clement Biddle, one of the most prominent and distinguished citizens in Philadelphia. From this connection, during a period of nearly fifty years, he derived the highest degree of domestic happiness.

The same year, he became associated with Dr. Thomas C. James as an instructor in obstetrics, with whom he remained associated until, on the 29th of June, 1810, Dr. James was elected to the newly created chair of Midwifery in the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Chapman, however, continued his course of lectures successfully, and his connection with Dr. James was not disturbed by the event.

In 1813, the death of Dr. Rush took place, and Dr. B. S. Barton was transferred from the professorship of *Materia Medica*, in the University, to the vacant professorship of Dr. Rush, that of the *Institutes and Practice of Medicine*. On the 13th of August of that year, at the age of 35, began Dr. Chapman's first official connection with the University as a professor, when he was elected to the chair of *Materia Medica*, left vacant by the transfer of Dr. Barton. This chair he occupied until, on the death of Dr. Barton, in 1816, he was unanimously elected to the Professorship of the *Practice, Institutes, and Clinical Medicine*; which position he held till he was removed by death, on the 1st of July, 1853. His last course of lectures was delivered during the winter of 1849-50, and to the writer there is a melancholy pleasure in the thought that he was one of the last students ever examined by him for a diploma.

Dr. Chapman received many testimonials of the regard and esteem in which he was held by the students to whom he lectured, and by his fellow-citizens. These are treasured by the family as pleasing reminiscences of the past. Among the first of these tes-

timonials was a bust of himself, presented by one of the classes of the University soon after he began to lecture. The inscription on this bust is unfortunately lost. In the cholera epidemic of 1832, Prof. Chapman had charge of one of the city cholera hospitals, located at Twelfth and Locust Streets. At the termination of the epidemic, Dr. C., in common with the other physicians who had charge of hospitals, was presented by the city with a silver pitcher, in testimony of his public services. This pitcher, known in the family as the "cholera pitcher," contains the following inscription:—

TO NATHANIEL CHAPMAN:
THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA,
GRATEFUL FOR HIS DISINTERESTED AND
INTREPID EXERTIONS
IN A PERIOD OF PUBLIC CALAMITY.
Transeat in exemplum.

The medical class of 1835 presented him with a valuable service of silver, consisting of two large pitchers, three waiters, and goblets. They bear the following inscription:—

PRESENTED BY THE MEDICAL CLASS OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA,
TO PROF. NATHANIEL CHAPMAN,
AS A TESTIMONY OF RESPECT FOR HIS EXALTED TALENTS,
AND OF GRATITUDE FOR REPEATED INSTANCES OF
DISINTERESTED FRIENDSHIP, AND UNSOLICITED FAVORS.
Forsan et hæc olim meminisse juvabit.

Not long after this, at the request of another class, Dr. Chapman sat for his portrait, which was painted by his friend, Thomas Sully, and was, at his own request, placed in the museum of the University.

There is another portrait of Dr. Chapman, painted by Nagle, in the museum of the medical department of Pennsylvania College, which by some is thought to be a better likeness than the former.

Besides his duties as professor in the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Chapman performed other labors of a public character. In 1820, during a severe epidemic of yellow fever in Philadelphia,

he, with Dr. Thomas Hewson, had charge of the City Yellow Fever Hospital. He also, for a long period, gave clinical lectures in the Hospital of the Philadelphia Almshouse. For nearly twenty-five years, also, he delivered a summer course of lectures in the Philadelphia Medical Institute. This institution, which is still in existence, is the oldest of its kind in the United States, and was founded by Dr. Chapman, in 1817, although he generously declined all participation in the fees, or control over the appointments to chairs.

Soon after his return from Europe, he published a work entitled, *Select Speeches, Forensic and Parliamentary*, with critical and illustrative remarks, in five octavo volumes, which attracted much attention. In 1817, first appeared his *Elements of Therapeutics and Materia Medica*, which went through seven editions, one of them surreptitious. This treatise long maintained distinguished popularity among the works on Materia Medica, and now occupies a high rank as a book of reference. Of late years, Dr. C. refused to give his consent to the publication of new editions of the work, unless he could revise it. In 1820, he commenced the publication of the *Philadelphia Journal of the Medical and Physical Sciences*, which he continued to edit for many years. The Journal was undertaken with liberal views, the doctor never receiving any salary for his services. He was subsequently an occasional contributor to different periodicals.

Dr. Chapman filled numerous and honorable appointments in medical and learned societies. He frequently occupied the post of President of the Philadelphia Medical Society, in which he was a leading debater when the floor of that Society was a field in which the ablest members of the profession met in earnest and often vehement discussion. He was the successor to Duponceau in the eminent distinction of the presidency of the American Philosophical Society, and was a corresponding member of many of the learned societies of Europe. On the organization of the American Medical Association at Philadelphia in 1847, Dr. Chapman was unanimously elected President of that body. On its reassembling in Baltimore, in 1848, he positively declined a re-election, recommending rotation in the office, a system which has been followed ever since. Dr. C. wore these honors meekly, and we believe never made the slightest display of them.

The above, we believe, comprises briefly the main *facts* in Dr. Chapman's life. A few words in regard to him as a man, a physician, and an instructor, will close this sketch.¹ Dr. Chapman was the Sir Henry Hallford of the United States. He was not more distinguished for professional attainments than for courtliness and vivacity of manner, wit, knowledge of the world, and literary taste. His private character formed a marked contrast with that of his friend and contemporary, Physick, with whom he so long shared the first rank in the profession of Philadelphia. Physick, who shunned general society, and was little known, except in professional intercourse, had a reserved stateliness of manner, from which he never unbent. Engrossed by his patients and profession, he seldom entered into the every-day topics of life, and is remembered only as the skilful surgeon and successful operator. Chapman's temperament was cast in a different mould. Eminently social in disposition, with a gayety of spirit that did not flag with years, a wit, a punster, delightful as a companion, and enjoying company, he, for a long period, occupied a position, we may say, unrivalled in the society of Philadelphia. To these brilliant qualities he united the kindest feelings. His wit was without malice; he was frank, open-hearted, and open-handed. It is not surprising, then, that he was individually as popular as he was professionally eminent. He was emphatically the student's friend. With his heart and his purse always open, he was ever ready not only to impart sympathy, but more material aid when it was needed. We remember to have heard, during our pupilage in Philadelphia, that Dr. Chapman's generous nature was occasionally taken advantage of by mendacious and unprincipled students. If Dr. Chapman had a greeting more cordial, or a grasp of the hand more friendly and earnest than another, it was reserved for such of his pupils as were from his native State, Virginia, as he ever retained and manifested a decided preference for Virginia and everything Virginian. This preference, however, was by no means carried to the degree of exclusiveness, for he

¹ Here the writer feels constrained again to acknowledge his indebtedness to Dr. John B. Biddle. Much that follows is almost literally quoted from his article in vol. i. new series, of the *Medical Examiner*, acknowledged in more general terms in a note at the head of this memoir.

was as much a favorite with the Northern as with the Southern student.

As a practitioner, Dr. Chapman was distinguished as much for the charm of his manner in the sick chamber, as for skill and success in prescribing. His lively conversation and ever ready joke were often more effective than anodyne or cordial. Indeed, in cases of trifling importance, the doctor sometimes prescribed little else. In pleasant chitchat, both patient and physician seemed to forget the object of the visit, and the doctor would depart and "leave no sign" for pill or bolus. In this connection, we cannot forbear introducing a single short anecdote which, we believe, is correctly attributed to Dr. Chapman. He one day received a hasty summons from a lady to attend at her house. On his arrival, he learned that her daughter had accidentally swallowed a shilling piece, and the mother was all anxiety and trepidation in view of the consequences. "Was it a good shilling?" coolly asked the doctor. "Yes." "Well, then, I guess it will pass," he replied, as he bowed and retired.

But when roused by symptoms of actual severity, Dr. Chapman was almost as unequalled in resources as he was devoted in attentions. Hence, as a consulting physician, his great powers were particularly conspicuous. Rapid and clear in diagnosis, inexhaustible in therapeutics, self-relying, never discouraged, he was the physician of physicians for an emergency. "As a lecturer," says Dr. Jackson, "Dr. Chapman was self-possessed, deliberate, and emphatic. Whenever warmed with his subject, his animation became oratorical. Often the tedium of dry matter would be enlivened by some stroke of wit, a happy pun, an anecdote, or quotation. He was furnished with stores of facts and cases, drawn from his own large experience and observation, illustrating principles, diseases, or treatment under discussion. His bearing was dignified, manners easy, and gestures graceful. He had a thorough command over the attention of his class, with whom he always possessed an unbounded popularity. His voice had a peculiar intonation, depending on some defect in the conformation of the palate, that rendered the articulation of some sounds an effort. The first time he was heard, the ear experienced difficulty in distinguishing his words. This was of short duration; for, once ac-

customed to the tone, his enunciation was remarkable for its distinctness. Students would often take notes of his lectures nearly verbatim."

"His name," says the same writer, "is inscribed on the pages of the medical history of our country, with those of the distinguished and memorable men whose cultivation and labors have advanced and illustrated our science. * * * It is embalmed, cherished, and revered in the grateful bosoms of the thousands who loved him as a man, valued him as an instructor, and blessed him as a physician."

In the spring of 1850, his declining health made it necessary for Dr. Chapman to resign his professorship in the University, but he was immediately chosen by the trustees, emeritus professor. From this time to his decease, his health continued to fail, and he died on the 1st of July, 1853, of a slow and gradual decay, rather than of any positive disease.

APPENDIX C.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF ALEXANDER H. STEVENS, M. D., LL. D.,
SECOND PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

DR. STEVENS was born in the city of New York, September 4, 1789. His father, Ebenezer Stevens, was one of those who threw the tea into Boston harbor. He entered the army early, and served to the close of the war. Was at the battles of Saratoga and Yorktown, with the rank of Colonel of Artillery. After the war, Col. Stevens married a sister of Col. Ledyard, who fell at Groton. She was aunt to Ledyard the traveller.

At the age of ten years, Alexander was sent to school at Plainfield, where he fitted for college under the now venerable John Adams. At fourteen he entered Yale College, and graduated with credit in his eighteenth year. Having selected the profession to which he has since done so much honor, he entered the office of Dr. Edward Miller, and after attending one course of lectures in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, and a second in the University of Pennsylvania, he graduated at the latter institution, on which occasion his Thesis *On the Proximate Cause of Inflammation*, was highly lauded by Dr. Rush. In 1811, Dr. Stevens sailed for France, but was captured by an English cruiser, and sent to Plymouth. Thence he found his way to London, and attended the lectures of Cooper and Abernethy. Next year he crossed the Channel, and at Paris followed the clinics of Boyer and Larrey. War meanwhile broke out between the United States and England, and Dr. Stevens was again captured on his way to America and sent to Plymouth. Ultimately, he returned home in a cartel, and was appointed surgeon in the army. In 1814, he was chosen Professor of Surgery in the New York Medical Institution, and in 1818 elected

Surgeon to the New York Hospital. Here he immediately began to give clinical lectures, which he continued with great success for twenty years. On the resignation of the faculty of the College of Physicians in 1825, Dr. Stevens was appointed Professor of Surgery in that institution. Here, and at the New York Hospital, he continued to teach surgery with great acceptance till 1838, when, on account of ill health, he resigned both places, having previously confined his practice to consultations and surgical operations. The retirement of Dr. Stevens from the active duties of his profession, was matter of great regret to his friends, and the officers of the two institutions which he has so ably served, hastened to manifest their sense of the value of those services. He was appointed by the Regents, Emeritus Professor of Surgery, and by the Governor, Consulting Surgeon to the New York Hospital. His pupils also placed his portrait in the Governor's room at the hospital. In 1841, the Regents appointed Dr. Stevens President of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, an office he still holds. In 1846, he was elected President of the New York State Medical Society, and his inaugural address was ordered by both houses of the legislature, and by eminent members of the bar, to be printed. About the same time he received from the Regents the degree of LL. D. In 1847, he was elected Vice-President, and in 1848, President of the American Medical Association. He has been present at most of the subsequent meetings of the Association, always ready to exercise that large measure of influence which his character has secured, in advancing the profession in general and technical learning, in ethics and in social position. In his own city, and among those brethren who have known him longest and most intimately, he holds a position and wields an influence which nothing but eminent ability could have attained, and nothing but strict integrity and inflexible adherence to honor and duty could retain. Dr. Stevens' publications have been few, and are scattered through the medical periodicals of the last twenty years. As a surgeon, he seems not to have sought the reputation of an operator, but rather to have cultivated a thorough knowledge of the nature and treatment of surgical diseases—*content to cure while others sought to cut.*

APPENDIX D.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF JOHN C. WARREN, M.D., THIRD PRESIDENT
OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

DR. JOHN COLLINS WARREN was born in Boston on the first day of August, 1778; his family were among the earliest inhabitants of that city. His father, Dr. John Warren, was in the public service as a surgeon during the whole Revolutionary war, became a physician in Boston, and was the first Professor of Anatomy in New England. His mother was the daughter of Governor Collins, of Rhode Island. General Warren, who was killed at Bunker Hill, was the elder brother of Dr. John Warren, and was himself an eminent physician and surgeon of Boston.

The subject of this memoir, having received the preliminary education at the Boston Public Latin School, where he obtained the first Franklin Medal (a distribution made according to the will of Franklin, to meritorious scholars), entered Harvard University, from which he graduated in 1797. After obtaining the elements of anatomical knowledge at home, he visited Europe, where he entered Guy's Hospital, in London, as a pupil of William and Sir Astley Cooper. At that period, Cline, Abernethy, Home, &c., were on the stage in London; the Munroes, Gregory, Duncan, and the Bells, in Edinburgh; Cuvier, Bichat, Chaussier, Dubois, Alibert, Desfontaines, in Paris; to all of whom he had an opportunity of listening.

Returning to Boston in the latter part of 1802, he entered at once into the full practice of medicine and surgery, and married, in 1803, the daughter of the Hon. Jonathan Mason, then Senator in Congress. In 1806 he was chosen Recording Secretary of the Massachusetts Medical Society, and the same year was appointed Adjunct Professor of Anatomy, as colleague to his father. Drs.

Warren, Dexter, Jackson, and J. C. Warren, then united to request the government of Harvard University to establish a branch of the medical school in Boston, as previously it had existed only in Cambridge; this was done in 1810. They also took the first step towards connecting a practical school to the Medical Institution, by taking charge of the hospital of the Almshouse. In 1808, was published the Pharmacopœia of the Massachusetts Medical Society, which had been prepared by Drs. Jackson and J. C. Warren. About this time, Dr. Dexter declined the office of Professor of Chemistry, and Dr. Gorham was appointed his successor.

The first Anatomical Lectures in Boston were given (1809) over the shop of a chemist, 49 Marlboro' Street, and the first public dissecting room was opened in the same place by Dr. J. C. Warren. From this period to about 1820, a regular series of steps was taken towards the formation of a hospital; and the principal gentlemen of Boston entering with spirit into the matter, established two hospitals, one for the sick, the other for the insane. The McLean Asylum for the Insane was opened at Somerville, in 1818, under the charge of Dr. Rufus Wyman, as Superintendent and Physician. The Massachusetts General Hospital was opened in September, 1821, in Allen Street, Boston; to this institution Dr. Jackson was appointed Physician, and Dr. J. C. Warren, Surgeon.

In 1815, occurred the death of Dr. John Warren, then President of the Massachusetts Medical Society, and Dr. J. C. Warren was chosen Professor of Anatomy and Surgery, lecturing at the same time on midwifery and physiology. In the same year, 1815, was erected in Boston the Massachusetts Medical College, a substantial brick edifice belonging to Harvard University, the funds for which were chiefly procured by the appeals of Drs. Jackson and Warren.

In 1827, Dr. J. C. Warren was chosen President of the Massachusetts Temperance Society, a situation which he still continues to hold after the lapse of twenty-seven years. In 1832, he was chosen President of the Massachusetts Medical Society, and resigned his office in 1834.

After having labored in his profession thirty-five years, he went to Europe in 1837, with his family, to renew his acquaintance with his old friends, and to obtain new ones. From this visit he re-

turned in the latter part of 1838, and resumed the lectures on Anatomy and Surgery.

The death of Mrs. Warren occurred May 8, 1841. During the thirty-seven years and a half of married life, there were born unto them three sons and three daughters. In October 1843, Dr. Warren espoused for his second wife, Anna Winthrop, daughter of Governor Thomas L. Winthrop. She died December 17, 1850.

In 1846, Dr. Warren performed the first surgical operation with ether. In 1847, he was chosen President of the Boston Society of Natural History, an office which he continues to fill with unabated interest. In the same year, being then nearly seventy years old, he resigned the office of Professor of Anatomy and Surgery, and soon after presented his Anatomical Museum (the acquisition of half a century, and supposed to be worth at least ten thousand dollars), to Harvard University, for the benefit of the Medical School, with the sum of five thousand dollars to keep it in order.

As President of the American Medical Association for the year 1849-50, he delivered the Annual Address before that body, at their meeting in Cincinnati, in May, 1850.

In January, 1853, he resigned the office of Surgeon to the Massachusetts General Hospital; whereupon the Trustees of that Institution presented him a vote of thanks, and placed his bust in their Hall.

APPENDIX E.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF R. D. MUSSEY, M. D., FOURTH PRESIDENT
OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

DR. R. D. MUSSEY was born in New Hampshire, Rockingham County, Pelham Township—on the 23d of June, 1780. His father, Dr. John Mussey, a respectable country physician, was unable to make much provision toward giving the son an education, though he early expressed a wish to do so.

When R. D. M. was eleven years old, his father removed to Amherst, N. H., where the son had the benefit of some weeks' instruction in the winter, at the district school. He was taught by his father the elements of Latin, and at the age of fifteen, was sent to the Aurean Academy at Amherst. At this school, he acquired such knowledge of Latin and Greek, and other studies, as qualified him for entering freshman in one of the New England colleges; but seeing no readier way of obtaining the requisite means, he employed himself on the farm in summers, and taught school in the winters. He commenced teaching in his sixteenth year, and continued thus to employ his winters, until he entered in 1801, the junior class in Dartmouth College; having laid by a little from teaching, and being encouraged to hope for some aid from his father. The winter vacations in college he spent in school teaching, as he had done the winters before.

At college, he sustained the reputation of a respectable scholar, and was regarded by his own and preceding classes as occupying a standing in the first third of his class, which was larger than the then average classes, numbering forty-five. He was graduated in August, 1803, and immediately entered upon the study of medicine, as a pupil of the late, and very eminent, Dr. Nathan Smith, founder of the Medical School of New Hampshire.

The next summer, he taught an Academy in the town of Peterborough, N. H., to recruit his finances, at the same time diligently pursuing his medical studies, under the direction of Dr. Howe, of Jaffrey, N. H. The remainder of his professional studies was under the supervision of Dr. Smith.

After a public examination, at which he defended a Thesis on Dysentery, he received the degree of Bachelor of Medicine, in August, 1805.

Early in September of that year, he commenced the practice of his profession in the South Parish of Ipswich, now Essex—in Essex County, Massachusetts. Here he had no competitor—his predecessor, who had monopolized the practice of the parish, being in the last stage of pulmonary consumption. At this place he remained three years—then collecting his dues, had sufficient means to carry him to Philadelphia, where he remained nine months. He put himself under the instruction of Dr. Benjamin Smith Barton, Professor of Materia Medica, and attended, in the ensuing spring, his botanical lectures, after a full course of lectures in the University of Pennsylvania. In 1809, he received the degree of M. D. from this institution, which at that period enjoyed a high and wide reputation, attracting students from all directions and great distances.

The professors at that time were Drs. Rush, Wistar, Physic, Dorsey, Barton, Woodhouse—Drs. Chapman and James supplied the place of an obstetrical professor in lectures, which all the graduating students attended.

At this time, and for some years previous, Dr. Rush had taught, in the physiological part of his course, the doctrine of the non-absorption of the human skin. He was strengthened in his belief by some experiments made by two young physicians of Philadelphia, in which the experimenter breathed through a tube, fastened to his mouth at one end, while the other passed through the wall into a distinct apartment, to which fresh air was freely admitted; his body being rubbed at the same time with various odorous substances—as oil of turpentine, asparagus, &c. It was alleged that none of these odors were detected in the secretion of the kidneys, and the doctrine of non-absorption was regarded by part of the profession as fully established.

Dr. Mussey pursued a different course. He immersed himself for three hours in a madder bath, in which three pounds of madder were diffused in sufficient water to cover the body and limbs. During the two following days, the urine exhibited a bright red color, on dropping into a specimen of it a small quantity of a solution of caustic alkali.

This experiment was repeated with the same results; and they were made the basis for a Thesis at his graduation. These results, so undeniable, were peculiarly gratifying to some members of the Faculty, and of the profession generally, who had never been fully satisfied of the correctness of Dr. Rush's views. After his graduation, Dr. Mussey pursued a series of experiments with colored substances with a view to ascertain whether any others would enter the circulation, through the skin. The coloring matter of rhubarb was as easily detected, after a bath of its infusion, as that of madder—an application of the alkali, as before, producing a reddish-brown color.

These experiments were repeated, till there could be no mistake as to the facts. Several other colored substances were tried; as indigo, arnatto, redwood and logwood; but if either of these passed into circulation, their coloring matter must have been changed, inasmuch as neither of them could be detected in the urine.

One experiment was made with cochineal. A pound—or a pound and a half—of that article was ground fine, and mixed with sufficient warm water for a bath. After an immersion of three hours, the liquid muriate of tin, a well-known mordant for the color of cochineal, was employed as a test in the urine—but no coloring matter was detected.

Another experiment was made by Dr. M., which might have been regarded as not without risk. He immersed himself for three hours in a strong infusion of nutgalls, and then went into a strong solution of sulphate of iron, lying in that three hours more. No ink was found in the urine. He opened a vein in his hand, to ascertain if the serum of the blood exhibited anything peculiar. After obtaining about an ounce and a half of blood, it ceased to flow, and, exhausted by his long immersion, Dr. M. sank faint upon the floor. The serum of this blood had a tinge slightly different from that of common blood, and was slightly coagulated

—resembling very much the serum of common blood, in which a quantity of powdered nutgalls had been stirred up and allowed to settle; leaving the inference, that some portion of the nutgalls had probably passed into the circulation.

The doctor was not disposed to repeat the experiment—but was a week or two in regaining his accustomed strength and activity.

None of these experiments have ever been published, except those made with madder and rhubarb—although the minutes of them still exist, in Dr. Mussey's possession. As a matter of course, they excited, at the time, not a little discussion among the profession at Philadelphia; and it is said that some gentlemen—one of whom, at least, before referred to—had made experiments with odorous bodies, proceeded to repeat Dr. Mussey's experiments, with certain precautions, which they alleged he ought to have taken, viz: they plastered up very carefully the outlets of the body, and then went into the madder and rhubarb baths. Notwithstanding these precautions, they readily detected the foreign coloring matter in the urine. They varied their experiments somewhat, and at length made the announcement, that they had found only a few patches upon the body, which were capable of imparting these substances to the circulation by absorption or imbibition. These patches were inside of the leg, and thigh, and arm. The teachings of Dr. Rush, after this, were somewhat modified; he admitted that madder and rhubarb had a very "penetrating quality," and were capable of finding their way into the circulation, through certain points only. In this he was followed substantially by Dr. Chapman, the late Professor of Theory and Practice in the same institution.

All this was, soon after, effectually refuted by experiments made, at the request of Dr. Mussey—by his friend the late Dr. Sewall, of Washington City—then resident in Massachusetts. He immersed his hand and wrist, and afterward his foot and ankle—for periods of eight and ten hours—in a madder bath—repeating the experiments, and finding, upon each examination, plenty of madder in the urine.

Dr. Mussey, on returning from Philadelphia, settled in Salem, Massachusetts, a town of twelve thousand inhabitants, a dozen

miles from Boston. In this place, he soon formed a professional partnership with that excellent and learned man, Dr. Daniel Oliver, afterward Professor of Medicine in the Medical Institution of New Hampshire. During their professional connection, they gave, in two successive years, two courses of popular lectures on chemistry—at that time a novel enterprise in that town.

Dr. M. remained in Salem between five and six years, most of the time largely occupied in professional practice. During the last three years of that period, his obstetrical practice was larger than that of any other physician in the town—amounting, in average, to a fraction over three cases a week, for the whole time. While in Salem, he also performed a considerable number of surgical operations—especially upon the eye.

In the autumn of 1814, he accepted an invitation to the Professorship of Theory and Practice of Physic in the Medical School of Dartmouth College.

In the changes which occurred in the Medical Institution, connected with the attempt of the legislature to wrest the charter from the Trustees of Dartmouth College, Dr. M. was requested to give the lectures on chemistry for one session; which he did, to very general acceptance—seldom, or never, failing in any experiment which was, at that period, considered necessary for the illustration of chemical principles. After the decision of the Dartmouth College question, by the Supreme Court of the United States, in 1819, so ably and triumphantly argued by the great Alumnus of the College, Daniel Webster—Dr. Mussey was appointed to the Professorship of Anatomy and Surgery. At this time he judged it necessary to commence the study of anatomy, as it were, *de novo*; and having then a somewhat large professional practice, he was compelled to hard work by day, and frequent encroachment upon the night, in order to give his two daily lectures, during the term, and to meet the calls of his patients.

Until the close of the session in 1838, he continued to instruct in these branches—and in addition, gave lectures for a time on *Materia Medica*, and also on Obstetrics, to meet occasional exigencies of the College. In the summer of 1817, he gave a course of Lectures on Chemistry at Middlebury College, in Vermont.

Early in December, 1829, Dr. Mussey left Hanover for Paris,

where he remained several months, attending the Hospital Cliniques. During this absence he passed several weeks in London, visited many of the provincial Hospitals and Museums of Anatomy, as well as those of the metropolis; and formed the acquaintance of many distinguished professional gentlemen.

From this absence of ten months he returned in season to complete his college duties, by giving double and treble lectures in the session of 1830.

At this time, the Medical School of Maine, having lost by death its Professor of Anatomy and Surgery, invited Dr. Mussey to give the lectures in those branches; which he did, for four successive winters—the session in Maine commencing after that in New Hampshire had closed.

For two successive seasons, in 1836 and 1837, after the close of the New Hampshire session, Dr. M. went to Fairfield, Herkimer Co., N. Y., to give lectures on Surgery, in the College of Physicians and Surgeons located there, an institution then very flourishing, but some years afterward given up.

In the fall of 1838, Dr. M., worn with the laborious country practice in a cold climate, and looking to his future, as probably of longer usefulness in a city, accepted an invitation to the Professorship of Surgery, in the Medical College of Ohio, at Cincinnati, and removed thither with his family. In that institution, for fourteen successive years, he gave the lectures on Surgery, besides having charge of the surgical department of the Commercial Hospital of Cincinnati, and sustaining a full practice.

At the close of his fourteenth course there, Dr. M. resigned his chair in the Medical College of Ohio, and in the course of the ensuing summer, 1852, consented to take the Professorship of Surgery in the Miami Medical College in Cincinnati; in which he has already given two full courses of lectures, and has had charge, through the sessions, of the surgical department of St. John's Hospital (1854).

At, and before the time of Dr. Mussey's visit to Europe in 1830, the doctrine of the non-union of intra-capsular fractures of the neck of the thigh bone, was taught by Sir Astley Cooper, and admitted by many distinguished members of the profession in Great Britain. Dr. M. carried with him a specimen, which, in the

opinion of several surgeons both in Paris and London, satisfactorily demonstrated the fact of such bony union. When this was shown to Sir Astley, he at first remarked, "This was never broken." After a more careful inspection of it, especially its interior, which had been sawed into two vertical portions to render it accessible to the eye, he remarked: "This does look a little more like it, to be sure, but I do not think the fracture was entirely within the capsular ligament." Few surgeons who saw the specimen, had the assurance to deny that it was a case of bona fide fracture. That distinguished surgeon, Mr. John Thompson, of Edinburgh, author of a treatise on inflammation, valuable in its time, did, however, upon taking the specimen in his hand, declare "upon his troth and honor," that it had never been broken. This opinion, given with an ex-cathedrâ emphasis, foreclosed all further conversation. Since that time, Dr. Mussey has procured several specimens which prove indubitably a bony reunion of this intra-capsular fracture.

Before his visit to Europe, Dr. M. had operated upon a young man, for a large, bleeding, and ulcerated nævus, upon the vortex of the head—by tying in succession both carotid arteries, at twelve days' interval—and a few weeks afterwards, removing the tumor. An account of this case, contained in the *Am. Journal of the Med. and Phys. Sciences* for February, 1830, had been received in London a short time before Dr. M.'s arrival there. As this was the first published case of tying both carotids, it necessarily excited some interest in the profession, and enlarged Dr. M.'s facilities of intercourse with its scientific members in that metropolis.

As a physician and operative surgeon, Dr. M. has sustained a prominent rank in the profession of our country. While in New Hampshire, he had a widely-extended field for the exercise of his professional abilities; and, although he had not the advantage of that close association with medical men which large cities give, the privation resulted in a more thorough development of his own powers, and a more self-reliant professional judgment.

It was in this period, that he successfully treated, by operation, a case of uni-ocular ovarian disease.

Another rather rare operation, was one upon hypertrophied

tongue, in a boy of thirteen. The disease commenced at the age of nine months, and at the time of operation, the tongue measured eight inches in circumference where it issued from the mouth, and five inches in length, from the upper lip to the tip of the tongue. The operation was successful. Reported in the *Philadelphia Journal*.

Another extraordinary case was one of osteo-sarcoma, which commenced in the thumb and forefinger, and for which an operation was performed, consisting of the removal of the entire metacarpal bone of the thumb, and three-fourths of that of the forefinger. Thirteen years afterward, the disease had invaded the radius, and the os humeri; especially its upper half, which had become very large, and exceedingly painful. At that time, the arm was amputated at the shoulder joint. Six years after this, the patient came a third time to Dr. M., with the same disease, in the form of a large tumor, occupying the greater part of his shoulder blade and collar bone. He was then put upon farinaceous diet, for a month—drinking only milk or water—preparatory to a third operation. This consisted in the removal of the entire shoulder blade and collar bone, and resulted successfully; the first operation of the kind, it is believed, ever performed. This was in October, 1837. The patient is still living, and well (1854).

In Ohio, Dr. M. had, in the summer of 1845, a case somewhat like the preceding. Mr. Stark, from Lower Sandusky, had a very large osteo-sarcoma of the arm, shoulder blade, and outer portion of the collar bone. Dr. Mussey removed the arm, the entire shoulder blade, and more than half of the collar bone. In a letter received from this patient in the spring of 1854, he reports himself *well*, having had no symptom of a return of the disease since the operation.

In the summer of 1845, Dr. Mussey, for osteo-sarcoma of the lower jaw, disarticulated that bone, removing more than half of it, and accomplishing this without dividing the duct of Steno, or the facial nerve. The object was to preserve the symmetry of the mouth for the patient (a beautiful young lady), and it was fully realized.

Dr. M. was not at the time aware that the lower jaw had ever

before been disarticulated, and a large portion of it removed, without implicating the facial nerve.

Dr. M. has kept no record of the number of his operations, except those of three classes, viz:—

Lithotomy, 49; 4 deaths. Lithotrity, 1; successful.

Strangulated hernia, 40; 8 deaths.

Varicocele, 45; by subcutaneous ligation of the spermatic vein, with never a bad symptom following. In all the cases followed out—and it is believed in the whole number—a perfect cure.

Dr. M. recollects four cases of successful operation for perincal fistula; and two for stricture of the urethra, of long standing, and so complete as not to admit the passage of either catheter or bougie, into the bladder. In both cases, the recto-vesical tapping of the bladder was practised, as a necessary measure, to prevent speedy death from entire obstruction of the urine. After the subsidence of the irritation, the point of a staff pushed as far as it would go into the urethra, was cut down upon through the perineum, and as no instrument, not even the smallest probe, could be passed into the stricture, an artificial canal was made, by passing, without a guide, a straight, narrow, sharp pointed bistoury into the bladder, and was kept open by an elastic gum catheter. In both cases, the wound in the perineum was ultimately healed, and the artificial urethra kept open by the occasional use of the bougie, for the first year, and very rarely afterwards, answered a good purpose. One of the patients, who went to a distant part of the country, was heard from five years after the operation, and was reported to be well. The other, now about thirty-eight years old, still lives in Cincinnati. He stated to Dr. Mussey, in May, 1854, thirteen years after the operation, that he sometimes felt a slight difficulty in passing his water, but that for some years he had not, except in a few instances, been induced to pass a bougie.

In a third case of *impervious* stricture, in which there was enough dribbling of urine to prevent the necessity of puncturing the bladder, an operation similar to the foregoing was practised, within the last eight months, with less satisfactory results. The patient—between fifty and sixty years of age—after a long confinement with severe symptoms, recovered, and went home able to urinate with a small stream, accompanied at each urination with

the discharge of a few drops through a small aperture still remaining in the perineum.

In several instances he has removed the upper, and parts of the lower jaw, for the diseases not unfrequently invading those bones—and within the last ten or twelve years he has had numerous cases in plastic surgery. In three cases, he had fair success, in making an artificial nose, and in one case, failed. In repairing cheeks and lips, lost by sloughing in childhood, he has had several cases, with very satisfactory results.

Within the last two years, Dr. Mussey ligated, at four weeks' interval, both carotids successfully, for aneurismal enlargement of the arteries about the ear. Within the same period, Dr. M. obtained a perfect cure by operation, of a recto-vaginal fistula. Both cases are detailed in the *Am. Jour. Med. Science*, at Phila., 1853.

Dr. Mussey's private character and history remain for a different record. That his life has been full of successful labor, possible only to a firm and energetic perseverance, this professional outline will indicate—that it has been for many years controlled by the principles of an earnest and conscientious Christianity, is its better testimony. His attention was roused in early life to the necessity of a temperance reformation, and his agency in that movement has been not only prominent from the first, but consistently progressive with the growth of public sentiment—unless it may be said to have been, at times, in advance of it. For more than twenty years, he has been a water drinker, and for almost the same period, a practical vegetarian, in accordance with what he believes to be the true principles of hygiene.

APPENDIX F.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF JAMES MOULTRIE, M. D., OF CHARLESTON, S. C., FIFTH PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

THE subject of this memoir was born in the city of Charleston, State of South Carolina, on the twenty-seventh day of March, seventeen hundred and ninety-three. The names of his ancestry are honorably recorded in the revolutionary as well as medical history of the country. He is the fourth, in four successive generations, who gave themselves to the vocation of medicine. He received the early portion of his preliminary education at home, the late in England, at the town of Hammersmith, then not far distant from London, under the direction of its eminent Principal, who had been an inmate and private tutor in his grandfather's family.

This school, which was one of the best in that vicinity, had many scholars, living within a campus, and subject to a discipline analogous to our own colleges; the branches of education taught therein being the ancient classics, the French and Italian languages, mathematics, drawing and painting, music and dancing. Besides these, it was the usage of the principal frequently to take with him to London members of the higher classes, to attend the public lectures on astronomy and other kindred subjects, at which he delighted to be present also.

It was the misfortune of young Moultrie, however, to have been under the necessity of leaving England, soon after the finishing classes had entered upon the concluding term of discipline, in which the members were chiefly occupied in recapitulations, and the further exercises of translating extemporaneously, from one language into another, from Latin chiefly into French,

and *vice versa*, as well as into English, under the oral diction of the head of the school, in consequence of the encounter between the Chesapeake and Leopard, and the apprehended difficulties which eventuated in the war of 1812. This was felt by him as a severe calamity, occurring, as it did, at so important a period of life, and so likely, for that reason, to be irretrievable. His return took place in the autumn of 1808.

On his arrival in Charleston, a commission was procured for him as a cadet at West Point, and preparations entered upon to enable him to effect an early entrance into that seminary; but, other and perhaps wiser counsels prevailed. A personal preference having been expressed for medicine, the profession of his progenitors, he at once entered the medical office of the firm of Barron and Wilson, two distinguished practitioners of that day, and commenced reading the *Edinburgh Pharmacopœia*, *Materia Medica*, and *First Lines* of Cullen, together with the compounding of formulas and prescriptions. About a year after, he left them and went to the Marine Hospital, where he became a pupil of Dr. Geo. Hall, for the purpose of enjoying the further advantages of clinical instruction, post-mortem examinations, and anatomical dissections; and of simultaneously attending a private infirmary, for people of color, established by the same individual, jointly with Dr. Thos. Akin.

The winters of 1810-11 and 1811-12 were spent in Philadelphia, in attendance on the lectures, in the time-honored University of Philadelphia. At the end of the second season, he graduated, and immediately returned to the scene of his future labors.

His father, having declined in health, and being no longer able to discharge the duties of the office which he had long held as Port Physician, and Physician to the Jail, as well as Magazine Guard, consisting of a small body of State troops, organized for the protection of the State ammunition, that appointment, through the agency of a patron, was conferred upon him by the then Governor of the State, Jos. Alston; an honor and a position which he continued to enjoy and to hold for many years. Hostilities, too, between Great Britain and the United States having actually commenced, and the State of South Carolina having been under

the necessity of organizing two regiments of infantry and a battalion of artillery, under the orders of the General Government, the post of surgeon, in a civil capacity, to the latter, was tendered him and accepted, until that vacancy could be regularly filled. This condition, however, was never fulfilled, and he continued in the discharge of the obligations incident to the trust, until the end of the war, when the troops returned to their homes. During the encampment, which was in a place subject to the influence of malaria, the members of the battalion suffered, in common with those of the regiments, with fevers, dysentery, and pneumonia; but it was their good fortune, nevertheless, to retire from the field without having occasion to lament the loss of a single comrade. His intimacy, too, with the members of the profession in charge of the two adjacent regiments, afforded him daily opportunity of witnessing, and often of assisting in their practice, a privilege of which he frequently availed himself, thereby enlarging the sphere of his experience, and of preparing for his future duties.

During the same period, as well as afterwards, his visits to the Marine Hospital were uninterrupted, and the duties of the incumbent often performed for him for considerable periods of time; in one instance this lasted for a year. Connected with it was the enjoyment of other advantages besides the clinics; the study of pathology, and permission to use the operative room for dissections in anatomy and the delivery of lectures. These opportunities were accordingly so employed for several seasons, in the presence, and with the aid of a reputable class, and for the sole purpose of self-instruction and improvement; it being often necessary for him, at midnight, to contribute his personal exertions in procuring the subjects necessary for that purpose the next day.

At the close of the war, accruing embarrassments having rendered necessary the transference of much property, during the course of that transference, the prisoners of war, who were accommodated in jail, gave place to inmates of a different color; and the smallpox having subsequently and unexpectedly made its appearance, opened a new scene of observation, which tended to augment the summation of his experience. A similar opportunity

was also afforded, some time later, at the Lazaretto. Such was the general character of his initiation into the responsibilities of his profession.

In 1812, shortly after his return from the University, he was admitted a member of the Medical Society of South Carolina; and after serving in immediate succession, for the term of two years each, as Secretary, Treasurer, and Vice-President, he was unanimously elected, in 1821, President of the same, and again in 1822. During the second year of his service, the idea of the establishment of a Medical College in the metropolis having been seriously entertained by the Society, yet failing to prepare for its execution in time for the meeting of the legislature, which was actually in session, and apprehending from a similar entertainment at the Capitol, the establishment of that institution, either exclusively in the latter place, or as a school divided between the two municipalities, an extra meeting was suddenly called by those immediately interested, and the President requested to draw up, by the next day, a suitable memorial. That memorial was prepared, and at the adjourned meeting unanimously adopted and forwarded. It had the effect of preventing the evils which were deprecated, though it failed to secure to the memorialists the principal objects had in view. It contained, a *sine qua non* for the erection of a suitable edifice, a petition for money: a condition which the judgments of the legislators were not willing to accord. The next year, however, on a renewal of the memorial, which was drawn up by Samuel Henry Dickson, M. D., now Professor of the Institutes and Practice in the Medical College of the State of South Carolina, in which the frustrative feature was omitted, an act of incorporation was unhesitatingly granted, and the professors being elected by the Society, the College went into instantaneous operation. Dr. Moultrie was expected to assume the professorship of Anatomy, but declined, the reasons for which are not necessary to be detailed. On a second occasion, however, in which the Faculty of the College were induced to apply for another act of incorporation, and the Medical College of the State of South Carolina was instituted, being invited to unite with that body, as Professor of Physiology, in their renewed adventure, and those reasonings no longer obtaining, he instantly accepted

the invitation, and has been associated with them ever since, in effecting the ends had in view.

Through his exertions, in a great degree, was formed the Medical Association of the State of South Carolina, the organization of which was recommended by the American Medical Association, at its own organization, in 1847, in Philadelphia, on which occasion he was elected one of its Vice-Presidents.

At the meeting of the American Medical Association, in May, 1850, in Charleston, Dr. Moultrie was unanimously elected President. His speech, on being inducted to the chair, was strikingly neat and appropriate. He presided with great dignity; and at its subsequent meeting in Richmond, read the annual address, which it is the custom of each retiring officer to deliver to the Association. His paper contains many important and valuable suggestions relative to the constitution, functions, duties, and influences of that body, and deserves a careful reading by every member of that great national institution.

The success attendant upon the early lectures of the Faculty in the first school, having obtained from the legislature the boon which had primarily been asked in vain, and further assistance from the city council, it enabled them to erect a suitable edifice, and which was ready for the accommodation of the class in 1829. On the occasion of its opening, which was a public one, the inaugural address was delivered by the venerable Stephen Elliot, Professor of Natural History, and a member of the Faculty. It was the last of his literary efforts, he having died in the course of the ensuing spring, not long after the close of the college session. Shortly after it, Professor Moultrie received a joint application from the Faculty of the College, and the Philosophical Society of Charleston, of which the deceased had been chief founder and perpetual President, to deliver an eulogium at the next reopening of the institution, which, on the arrival of that event, was again made a public one. The honor was wholly unexpected, but the appointment was accepted, and the duties of the trust feelingly and faithfully discharged. This address is perhaps the most elegant and chaste of all the compositions of Dr. Moultrie. While it avoids, with perfect good taste, the exaggerated language of fulsome eulogy, or indiscriminate admiration, it is full of the gentle and melancholy feeling which the occasion

was adapted to call forth; and sketches with great nicety and proper appreciation the character and merits of the lamented dead, while it dwells upon the loss sustained by society in the removal of so distinguished and successful a cultivator of the natural sciences.

It has been his melancholy gratification to have been on two other occasions called on to perform a like task before the Medical Society of Charleston; one, a former preceptor, and second member of the firm, with whom he commenced his medical studies; the other, a promising young member of the profession, and *quondam* pupil; on both of which occasions, the sad duty was acceptably discharged.

In 1836, by appointment of the South Carolina Society for the Advancement of Learning, he delivered in the legislative hall at the Capitol in Columbia, before that body, the adjourned legislature, and a miscellaneous assemblage, an elaborate Essay on the State of Medical Education in South Carolina, which was printed by the Society, and appeared as a 3d number of a series of similar papers.

His account of the fossil fragments of the cranium of the celebrated Guadalupe skeleton, identifies that relic with the headless trunk from the same region, in the British Museum; and determines the question as to the ethnological relations to which the individual originally belonged.

A paper on the Uses of the Lymph, published in the 1st volume of the *American Medical Journal*, deserves our special mention. In this essay, Dr. Moultrie has carried out successfully, and as it seems to us to very important results, a suggestion, perhaps first made, and then carelessly and incidentally as it were by Blumenbach, that "the vital principle of the blood appears immediately to reside in its lymphatic portion." Reasoning with much ingenuity and in full detail from the data accumulated by physiologists, he establishes on firm and satisfactory grounds several deductions, since that time generally received by the profession, among them the wide distinction, almost contrast, between the venous functions and the lymphatics; and clearly pointing out the several "offices or uses of the lymph," viz: "to vivify the chyle;" "to augment the animalization of the arterial blood; and

lastly, to produce all those effects which constitute the phenomena of reproduction, adhesion, &c."

It is sufficient, but perfectly just praise of this admirable paper, to say that nothing has been added to our knowledge of the subject since the date at which it was offered to the profession, nearly thirty years ago.

During a long life of devotion to the profession of his early choice, Dr. Moultrie has enjoyed in a remarkable degree the confidence of his professional brethren, and of the community among whom he resides. Always observant of the strictest etiquette, his manners are easy and agreeable. His practice has been large and successful, and his patients have loved him as warmly in his quality of sympathizing friend, as they esteem him in his character of physician.

He is a member of the Unitarian Church, and for a long time presided over it as chief officer of the congregation. No one of its members has done more to advance its interests, and no one enjoys a larger share of its respectful regard.

In the political contests, of which neither his name nor his social position permitted him to shrink from taking his share, he has retained the good will of all parties, while maintaining firmly his opinions as a moderate opponent of all ultra doctrines, and an advocate of the true rights of the States, and the infinite value of the Union.

In the professor's chair, he is distinguished as a profound thinker, and, as a teacher, has fully instructed himself in the farthest progress of the department of physiology. His lectures abound in minute analysis, and close and logical deduction, which he enforces graphically by physical and material demonstrations; by drawings and diagrams well conceived and adapted to the purpose of illustrating topics so frequently difficult and obscure to classes imperfectly prepared and promiscuously collected.

But his studies and researches have not been restricted to the specialities of the profession. He has gradually accumulated a well selected and well arranged library of several thousand volumes, relating to the varied departments of human knowledge, which constitutes one of the chief ornaments of his dwelling, the indices and pencillings of which, under his own hand, attest the uses which have been made of it.

APPENDIX G.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF B. R. WELLFORD, M. D., SIXTH PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

DR. BEVERLY RANDOLPH WELLFORD was born in Fredericksburg, Virginia, on July 29, 1797. He was graduated in the Medical Department of the University of Maryland, in the spring of 1816, and returning to Fredericksburg, was immediately associated with his father in the practice of medicine.

Devoting himself with enthusiasm and energy to his profession, he not only soon established himself in the confidence and affections of a large circle of patients, but his reputation spreading beyond the sphere of his immediate practice, he was often invited to consultations by his brethren in adjacent counties. Dr. W. not only pursued with ardor the several branches of his profession, but he enlarged his mind and improved his taste by excursions into the kindred fields of science and general literature.

It was a matter of course that a man of such liberal studies should sympathize with the movements for medical reform, and professional organization, recommended by the American Medical Association. Accordingly, Dr. W., by his zeal and energy, contributed materially to the prosperity of the Virginia Medical Society, whose members evinced their appreciation of his efforts by electing him its President in 1851.

He discharged the duties of this office with so much care, and in a manner so satisfactory, that when the American Medical Association met in Richmond in 1852, he was, upon the unanimous recommendation of the Virginia delegates, chosen President of that body. The dignity and courtesy with which he presided over its deliberations, elicited the admiration of his associates, and the graceful elocution, varied learning, and general ability

which characterized his address before that body, gave him at once a national reputation.

In the spring of 1854, Dr. W. was elected to the chair of *Materia Medica* and *Therapeutics*, in the Medical College of Virginia, and removed to Richmond, where he has been diligently engaged in discharging the duties of this office, and in the practice of medicine. His courteous manners, ripe experience, professional learning, and literary taste, all fit him to shine in his new sphere, and attract towards this rising institution the regards of the American medical public.

APPENDIX II.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF CHARLES A. POPE, M. D., EIGHTH PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

DR. POPE was born in Huntsville, Alabama, on March 15, 1818, consequently, being now in the 37th year of his age.

His primary education was received at Greene Academy, in his native town. He subsequently passed through the prescribed courses of collegiate study in the University of Alabama, and immediately afterwards commenced the study of law. Finding, however, that the sedentary habits necessary to its prosecution, were incompatible with his then rather delicate constitution, he abandoned it for the study of medicine.

He began his medical studies with Drs. Fearn and Erskine, of Huntsville; the former being already widely and well known as a surgeon, and the latter ranking high as a physician. For both these gentlemen, Dr. Pope has always entertained high admiration and regard; he has always looked upon them as perfect types and exemplars in a social as well as a professional point of view. It was doubtless fortunate for the subject of this notice, that his early professional education was confided to such men. His own early eminence may be in a great degree attributable to their influence and example.

Dr. Pope attended his first course of medical lectures in the Cincinnati Medical College. Dr. Drake was then at its head, and in the height of his fame and popularity as a teacher. He was the idol of the class, and has always been regarded by Dr. Pope as one of the "greater lights" of the profession in this or any other country or age.

At the age of 21, Dr. Pope received his degree from the University of Pennsylvania, and soon after repaired to Europe

for the further prosecution of his studies. It was in the city of Paris, in Nov. 1839, that the writer of this brief notice first became acquainted with the young surgeon, for he had already begun to manifest his predilection for this branch of the profession. He was then noted as the most expert and neatest operator on the cadaver, amongst us. His friends, acquaintances, and teachers, even at that early day, predicted that he would in after years rank with the renowned masters of the noble and daring art.

He remained in Paris nearly two years, and afterwards visited the great continental schools, as well as those of Great Britain and Ireland.

It was on January 1, 1842, that Dr. Pope commenced the practice of his profession in the city of St. Louis, where his studious habits, high moral worth, and gentlemanly bearing, soon brought him into public notice and favor. In 1843, he was unanimously chosen Professor of Anatomy and Physiology, these chairs being then united in the Medical Department of the St. Louis University, a position for which he was not slow in proving himself fully competent. In 1846, he again visited the Old World, and furnished, during his absence, various contributions to the *St. Louis Medical and Surgical Journal*. In 1847, he was transferred to the chair of Surgery, at which time he had acquired considerable reputation as a judicious surgeon and skilful operator. It cannot but be regarded as a fortunate circumstance for him, that he delivered three courses of lectures on anatomy, before his accession to the chair of surgery; to this fact, no doubt, is to be attributed in a great degree his rapid success as a teacher and practitioner of this his favorite branch. In 1848, he was chosen dean of the faculty, an office which he has ever since held.

As a lecturer, Dr. Pope is rapid, clear, and concise; he is fluent, but makes no effort at oratorical effect. Few men can say more, or teach more, in an hour, than he. With the history and literature of surgery he is perfectly conversant. He is familiar with all the doctrines and modes of operating extant, and well may he be, as his entire attention is, and has been for years, devoted to them. He eschews the practice of medicine, consecrating him-

self solely to the teaching and practice of surgery. His collection of instruments, preparations, drawings and models, illustrative of his branch, are unexcelled by any private collection in the country.

As an operator, he is calm, confident, expeditious, full of resources, and, it may be added, eminently successful. Perhaps no surgeon of his age, in the country, has performed as many operations as he. This fact is not attributable to the absence of competition, for he found, on his arrival in St. Louis, three surgeons high in public estimation. Dr. Beaumont was then in his glory, and he, venerable man, was among the first to discover and rightly appreciate the talents of the future surgeon of the far West. Dr. Pope's connection with the St. Louis Hospital, as well as with the City Hospital, and the circumstance of St. Louis being a centre, attracting surgical cases from the surrounding States and Territories, will in part, perhaps, account for his extensive practice and frequent operations. As yet he has not handled his pen as much as his knife. He has not written a great deal. His contributions to surgery, however, though few, are valuable, and they have been extensively copied and frequently referred to as of standard authority.

A proper notice, however brief, of Dr. Pope's career, thus far requires a tribute to his liberality and devotedness to the medical department of the St. Louis University. To him, in a great degree, the school is indebted for its success; and, in this connection, justice demands the mention of the name of his father-in-law, Col. John O'Fallon, a man whose princely wealth has always been employed in behalf of the best interests of his city and his State—of humanity and of science. To him, the subject of this memoir, and his colleagues, are indebted for the ample halls of the St. Louis Medical College, and the public Dispensary thereunto attached.

Ten years ago, one of Dr. Pope's colleagues spoke of him in a public address, a valedictory, as follows: "Our professor of anatomy is yet a very young man, but I predict that in ten years he will rank among the first surgeons of the country." That prediction has been fulfilled, and Dr. Pope is yet a young man. Ten years ago, St. Louis was not what it now is; then it had

only a population of 40,000 souls, now it contains 130,000. What will the city and its institutions be in ten or twenty years more? May they not fully rival those of the east and of the Old World? May not the name of the young surgeon of the west rank with the most venerable names of the profession, and may he not bequeath to the institution which he has so efficiently contributed to build up, and to the profession, a fame equal to that of a Wistar or a Physick?

APPENDIX I.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF NATHAN S. DAVIS, M. D.

THE subject of this memoir is the second son of Dow Davis, and was born in the town of Greene, Chenango Co., New York, January 9th, 1817. His father is by occupation a farmer, and with his elder son, still occupies the farm on which Nathan was born, lying three miles northwest of the village of Greene, and, near the valley of the Genegantslet Creek. Of his ancestral relations but little is definitely known. His boyhood was spent in a *log* house, and until he was sixteen years of age, was himself bred a farmer, engaging actively in the varied and laborious pursuits incident to a farmer's life. Endowed by nature with a spare frame, slight and fragile in appearance, the occupation of his boyhood doubtless contributed much to the acquirement and subsequent development of that physical energy and power of endurance which he has enjoyed in his manhood. His early education was limited and defective, consisting only of such as he could acquire at a backward district school in the neighborhood, and by voluntary reading during his leisure hours, of such books as he could obtain. The pecuniary circumstances of his father, and the need of his assistance at home, and in the field, seemed to oppose the propriety or expediency, however desirous he may have been, of placing his son in a position where he could enjoy those advantages which he so much coveted, and it was not until he had attained the age of sixteen, that his desires in this particular were gratified. At this time he seems to have formed the purpose of preparing himself for the practice of medicine, and obtaining his father's consent and approbation, he entered Cazenovia Seminary, where he remained six months, pursuing the studies of English grammar, chemistry, natural philosophy, algebra, and Latin, with an earnestness and profit which few exhibit.

At the expiration of this term in the seminary, he commenced the study of medicine with Dr. Daniel Clark, of Smithville Flats, with whom he continued until the following autumn, when he took his first course of medical lectures at Fairfield, in the old "College of Physicians and Surgeons of the Western District of New York." At the close of the course, our young student entered the office of Dr. Thomas Jackson, of Binghampton, under whose tuition he remained until the completion of his term of study, attending lectures each winter at Fairfield. In January, 1837, at the end of his third course of lectures, he received the degree of M. D., being then but a few days over 20 years of age.

Of *four*, who were selected from the graduating class, to read their *theses* in public, as a part of the commencement exercises, Dr. Davis was one.

During his pupilage, his small supply of *money* and the limited assistance he received from friends, compelled the adoption of a rigid system of economy, and while in college, he tells us, that he boarded himself, "living very cheaply upon *roast potatoes, pudding and milk*," &c. &c.

Near the close of his last college course, an application was made to the Faculty of the college for their recommendation of a suitable young man who would go to Vienna, Oneida Co., and take the place of a physician who had for many years attended to the greater part of the practice in the vicinity, but whose health was then supposed to be rapidly failing. Dr. Davis was referred to, and the proposition accepted. With a small library of books and a pocket-case of instruments, we find him, in the February following, engaged in the practice of his profession, with the physician above alluded to (Dr. Daniel Chatfield). Soon after he made a verbal agreement with Dr. C. to purchase his property, the latter consenting to retire from practice altogether. During the following summer, however, Dr. Chatfield's health having become much improved, he was again desirous of engaging in practice, forming a partnership with Dr. Davis. But the latter declined the proposition. The "half agricultural and half *lumber*" town of Vienna, together with its remoteness from any considerable town or village, was little suited to satisfy the ambition and aspirations of such a man as Dr. Davis; and hence,

in July, having made a residence of only five months, he removed to Binghampton, Broome Co., where he continued in practice until his removal to New York, a period of nearly ten years. At the time of his removal to Binghampton he seems to have been desirous of migrating to the Valley of the Mississippi, but the want of pecuniary means induced the abandonment of any purpose in that direction.

The success which attended Dr. Davis in his new field of labor, both in his professional and social relations, was all he could desire or reasonably expect. While the intelligence, skill, and sound judgment which he exhibited as a physician secured to him the confidence and patronage of the community in which he lived, the urbanity of his manners, and the kindness and good feeling which he uniformly manifested, won equally the esteem and friendship of all who knew him.

In the spring following his removal to Binghampton, he was married to a Miss Parker (daughter of the Hon. John Parker, of Vienna), and who is still, with their two children, the pleasant sharer of his alternate joys and sorrows.

In addition to the varied and onerous duties incumbent upon him as a physician, and identified as he was with reform movements of both a local and general character, he still found much time for close and careful reading. His ambition to excel in the profession of his choice, coupled with an ardent love for its study and pursuit, left no leisure hour unemployed. In the organization and prosperity of medical societies, he took a deep and earnest interest, laboring zealously and diligently in whatever would contribute to their welfare and usefulness, or to the advancement of medical science, and the elevation of professional character. And I may add, his zeal and industry in this respect have not in the least diminished. Frequent communications from his pen made their appearance in the different medical journals, and one of which, originally published in the *American Journal of Insanity*, was copied into some of the European journals.

At the annual meeting of the New York State Medical Society, in Feb., 1840, the prize previously offered for the best essay on the "Diseases of the Spinal Column," &c., was awarded to him, and the essay published in the Transactions of the Society. The fol-

lowing year he received the prize offered by the same society for the best essay on the "Discoveries in the Physiology of the Nervous System, since the time of Charles Bell," which was also published in the Transactions of the Society for the same year, 1841.

In 1842 he was appointed delegate from the Broome County Society to the State Society, taking his seat in that body in February, 1843. He continued to meet with the State Society annually until his removal from the county in 1847, and to contribute to its Transactions almost yearly until his removal from the State.

During Dr. Davis's residence in Binghampton, he conceived the idea of a National Medical Association, and through his instrumentality and the co-operation of others, a convention of members of the profession was called, which met in the city of New York, in May, 1846, and which resulted in the organization of the society known as the *American Medical Association*.

In the spring of 1847, being ambitious for a wider field of labor, and increased facilities for acquiring distinction, he removed to the city of New York. During the winter following he employed a part of his time, at the solicitation of the Demonstrator of Anatomy in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, of that city, in taking charge of the dissecting-rooms and giving instructions in practical anatomy, and at the close of the regular college session, received and accepted an invitation from the Faculty, to give the spring course of lectures on *Medical Jurisprudence* in that institution. In the latter part of the same year, 1848, he commenced editing a small semi-monthly medical journal, styled the *Annalist*, and which he continued to publish until his removal from the city. During his residence in New York, his private practice slowly but uniformly increased, and in the summer of 1849 he found his time not only fully but profitably employed. In July of this year he received and accepted an invitation from the Trustees and Faculty of "*Rush Medical College*," located at Chicago, Illinois, to occupy the Chair of *Physiology* and *Pathology* in that institution. With this view he left New York in August, and after spending a few days in the interior of the State, started for his western home, arriving in Chicago in September, and the following month entered upon his duties

as a public teacher, discharging them with much credit to himself, and satisfaction to others. During the following year, some changes were effected in the Faculty of the College, and Dr. Davis was transferred to the Chair of *Practice of Medicine*, uniting with it *Pathology*. The establishment of a hospital soon after, brought with it the duties of clinical practice and instruction, and from that time until the present, he has performed the duties, and held the title of "*Prof. of Pathology, Practice and Clinical Medicine*." With what ability and satisfaction he has discharged the responsible duties imposed upon him as a teacher in medicine, the testimonials he has received abundantly testify.

Near the close of the regular college session of 1852-'53, he was presented by his class, as a token of their appreciation of his talents and ability as a teacher, and his worth as a man, with a valuable microscope, having a magnifying power of 1000 diameters. It bore the following inscription:—

PRESENTED

TO

N. S. DAVIS, M. D.,

Prof. of Pathology and Practice of Medicine
in Rush Med. College,

BY THE CLASS OF

1852 AND '53.

During the last session of 1854-'55, he was again made the recipient of testimonials equally expressive of the high regard and esteem in which he is held by those who listened to his instruction.

In the organization and prosperity of our *State and Local Medical Society*, he has uniformly taken a lively interest, attending their regular meetings, and contributing much to the interest of their transactions and their usefulness.

At the annual meetings of the National Association, of which he is at present one of the vice-presidents, he has been a regular attendant, with the single exception of the meeting at Baltimore. A list of the reports he has made, and papers presented to that body, together with others published from time to time, will be found appended to this sketch.

In concluding this brief outline of the past life of Dr. Davis, it may in brief be said, that in the reform movements pertaining to medical education, and in whatever will contribute to the advancement of medical science, and the elevation of professional character, there is concentrated his best energies, giving them his most zealous, earnest, and efficient support.

A few words in reference to his mental, moral, and social qualities, and his character and abilities as a physician and teacher will finish this sketch.

The talents which nature has bestowed upon Dr. Davis are of a high order. He possesses an inquisitive mind, clear, logical, and comprehensive. Originality of thought and independence of opinion are prominent qualities of his mind and character. The sentiment embodied in the oft-quoted and well-known line—

“Nullius addictus furare in verba magistri,”

is peculiarly applicable to him. In the discussion or investigation of any subject, his intellect is keen and searching. He has an ardent temperament, with a predominance of the nervous, a lively imagination, and a general fund of humor and pleasantry, which renders him in conversation or discussion, lively, pleasing and attractive. In debate he is usually calm, always ready and self-possessed; and not unfrequently, in the excitement or warmth which the subject or place occasions, arises to sublimity of thought and expression. His reasoning is cogent and terse, stating his points with clearness, force and precision. In manner he is impressive, always commanding attention, and oftentimes admiration.

Dr. Davis is a member of the Protestant Methodist Church, contributing by precept and example to the advancement of its interests, and the dissemination of true piety. He is frank, open-hearted and open-handed, ever ready to console the bereaved and unfortunate, to encourage the despondent, and to assist with more material aid the needy and destitute. Unlike many, his charity is prompted by a higher, nobler motive than ostentation and show. His labors and self-sacrifices in behalf of the unfortunate sick and poor of this city are held in grateful remembrance by the hundreds who have been the recipients of his kindness and aid.

As a physician, it is no unjust praise to say that he is univer-

sally beloved and esteemed by those who come under his care, inspiring in them confidence and hope, and meeting them with an encouraging smile, and a remark, oftentimes more effective for good than the most potent anodyne. In his diagnosis of disease, he is minute, careful, and searching, equalled only by the skill and sound judgment which he exhibits in their treatment. In emergencies requiring self-possession and prompt action, he is calm, deliberate, and efficient, exhibiting a ready command of resources which few under like circumstances possess. These attributes have secured for him, in a remarkable degree, the confidence of his professional brethren, and of the community in which he lives.

As a lecturer and teacher, he is a deep thinker, and a ready and fluent speaker. A close and accurate student himself, his lectures are delivered with clearness and distinctness, characterized by originality of thought, rigid analysis, and close logical deductions. He possesses the happy faculty of awakening in the minds of his class a lasting and earnest interest, and rendering them enthusiastically in love with the principles and study of medicine. He is emphatically the student's friend, ever ready to afford him every facility in his power for self-improvement and the accomplishment of every laudable and noble impulse. In a word, in all his relations, whether as a physician, teacher, or citizen, he enjoys a reputation which "no praise can brighten, or condemnation make dim."

The following is a list of the works written by Dr. Davis, not including any of his numerous communications to medical periodicals, viz:—

"An Essay on Diseases of the Spinal Column," to which was awarded the prize of the New York State Medical Society, in February, 1840, and which was published in the Transactions for that year.

"An Essay on the Discoveries in the Physiology of the Nervous System, from the time of Charles Bell to the present time." This received the prize awarded by the New York State Society for the year 1841, and was also published in the Transactions.

"A Text-Book on Agriculture, designed for study in schools," published by S. S. & W. Wood, 261 Pearl St., New York, 1848, pp. 148.

"History of Medical Education and Institutions in the United States, from the first settlement of the British Provinces to the year 1850; with a Chapter on the Present Condition and Wants of the Profession, and the means necessary for supplying those wants, &c. &c.: Chicago, S. C. Griggs & Co. publishers, 1851."

"Has the Cerebellum any Special Connection with the Sexual Propensity or Function of Generation?" An experimental investigation concerning the relative development of the Cerebellum in the Ox and Bull; read to the American Medical Association in May, 1850, and published in the Transactions, vol. 3.

"An Experimental Inquiry concerning some points connected with the Functions of Assimilation, Nutrition, and Animal Heat; also Analysis of the Blood of the Renal Vein and Artery, and that of the Iliac Vein and Artery of the same animal;" read to the American Medical Association in May, 1851, and published in the Northwestern Medical and Surgical Journal.

"Report from the Standing Committee on Medical Literature;" read to the American Medical Association in May, 1853, and published in the Transactions, vol. 6.

"A Lecture on the Effects of Alcoholic Drinks on the Human System, and the Duties of Medical Men in Relation thereto; delivered in the lecture-room of Rush Medical College, Dec. 25th, 1854; with an appendix containing original experiments in relation to the effects of Alcohol on Respiration and Animal Heat." J. F. Ballantyne, printer, Chicago, 1855, pp. 31.

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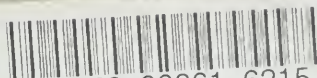
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